

UAE minister meets Khamenei

TEHRAN (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) minister of state for foreign affairs met Iran's Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi on Sunday and told reporters relations between the two countries were a model for the region. Diplomats in Abu Dhabi have said the minister, Rashid Abdullah Al Nuaimi, was in Tehran as part of a new bid to end the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq, but neither he nor his Iranian hosts have mentioned the conflict in their public statements here. Iran has this week repeated its war demands without change. Islamic Republic, the organ of the dominant Islamic Republican Party, said in an editorial on Sunday that the UAE had a special status among the Arab Gulf states in view of what it described as its realism. While some Gulf states did not understand their powerful yet benevolent neighbour, the UAE "has tried to a large extent to go its own reasonable way of opting for realpolitik," it added.

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Iraq reports new attack on Kharg

BAHRAIN (AP) — The Iraqi high command reported on Sunday that squadrons of their warplanes carried out a daring raid on Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal in the northeastern sector of the Gulf. A spokesman for the command said the raiding jets struck oil installations on the island. The raid, he said, took place at 1:22 p.m. "Our military aircraft pounded installations on Kharg with a barrage of bombs, setting them ablaze before returning safely to bases," added the spokesman. By Iraqi counts, it was the 60th raid on Kharg since mid-August, the day the Iraqis commenced their almost daily air strikes against the terminal with the avowed aim of blocking Iran's oil exports. Meanwhile, maritime shipping sources in Bahrain and Dubai said Iran was taking steps to abandon Kharg, mainly by building new offshore loading terminals at points in the Gulf waters out of range for the Iraqi warplanes.

King begins visit to Damascus today

King and Saudi leader discuss Mideast

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein and King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia on Sunday discussed the current situation in the Middle East in light of the latest developments in the Arab and international scenes. The discussions, which came during a phone conversation between the two leaders, also covered bilateral relations and means to strengthen them.

'Qadhafi pledged \$12.7m per year to Abu Nidal'

HAMBURG (AP) — Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi recently pledged \$12.7 million a year to extremist Palestinian leader Abu Nidal for terrorist operations, a West German newspaper reported on Sunday. The mass-circulation newspaper Bild Am Sonntag said the funding agreement was reached in a meeting between Col. Qadhafi and Abu Nidal in the Libyan desert near Ajzabiya. The initial sum of about \$4.7 million was to be given to Abu Nidal by Libyan secret police Col. Hassan Ashkal, said Bild. It did not say precisely when the meeting took place, nor give any sources for its "exclusive" story.

Zia appoints civilian governors

ISLAMABAD (AP) — President General Mohammad Zia ul Haq announced on Sunday the appointment of governors for the nation's four provinces as part of his plan to end eight-and-a-half years of martial law. Gen. Zia is expected to lift martial law on Monday and hand over greater responsibility to civilian Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, although he will continue to serve as president until 1990. The four provinces had been governed by generals (Related story on page 8.)

Israelis question Egyptian verdict

TEL AVIV (AP) — A senior Israeli official said on Sunday that the conviction of an Egyptian policeman who killed seven Israelis in the Sinai desert did not solve the basic problems between the two countries. Deputy Foreign Minister Ronnie Milo said on Israel army radio that the "atmosphere in Egypt, especially in the newspapers, does not leave a pleasant feeling, not among Israelis nor at the Foreign Ministry." An Egyptian military court sentenced Suleiman Khater, 24, to life imprisonment with hard labour on Saturday for shooting to death seven Israelis on Oct. 5.

2 anti-apartheid activists die

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Two white politicians well-known for opposing apartheid died in a car accident on Saturday east of the Indian Ocean harbor city of Port Elizabeth. A media report said Sunday. Molly Blackburn, who was from the Port Elizabeth area, was killed in the accident along with Brian Bishop, from Cape Town, said the South African Press Association (SAPA). Both served on the Cape Province provincial council, which administers the province.

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By Lami K. Andoni
In Damascus

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein arrives here on Monday in his first visit since Syrian-Jordanian relations were strained in 1980.

The visit was preceded by a series of high-level Syrian-Jordanian meetings in Saudi Arabia, Damascus and Amman over the last three months which paved the way for the long-awaited summit between the King and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

The reconciliation between Jordan and Syria was based on a three-point political agreement reached at Beirut between Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai and his Syrian counterpart Abdul Raouf Al Kassir in Riyadh in October.

According to the agreement, both countries reject direct talks with Israel, and unilateral or partial peace agreements to solve the Palestinian question and remain committed to convening an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations and in which the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties involved would participate.

Jordanian officials said last week that bilateral talks have achieved progress towards agreement on the form of the suggested international conference.

"Syria's idea of an international

conference had been identical to that of Moscow in the sense that such a conference would be co-chaired by the United States and the Soviet Union," explained a Jordanian official.

But now the Syrians have come to see eye-to-eye with us on the importance of the attendance of all the five permanent members of the Security Council to forestall a deal between the two superpowers at our expense," he said.

Other details about the proposed international conference have not been worked out yet, the official added. The main point of difference between Jordan and Syria concerns the representation

of the Palestinians in such a conference. While Jordan supports the leadership of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, Syria says it does not believe that the current PLO leadership represents the Palestinian people.

According to well-informed sources, the Syrians have suggested the formation of a unified Arab delegation to the international conference in order to overcome the obstacle of Palestinian representation.

This issue, along with other remaining unresolved points, are expected to be the focus of Monday's talks between the King and

Mr. Assad. Well-informed sources in the Syrian capital said on Sunday that Syria will not stop for long on the points of differences and would stress the points of agreement without seeking substantial changes in already established Jordanian policies.

Jordanian sources in Amman last week expected a major breakthrough to emerge from the talks between the two leaders. They said that both the King and Mr. Assad will "pick up from where the relations were strained."

The sources did not rule out an announcement of a revival of "the integration formula" which united

both countries on a rather loose basis during the mid-seventies. That would mean a revival of the numerous joint committees which coordinated cooperation between the two countries in most fields and joint companies.

Damascus is preparing a grand welcome ceremony for the King. President Assad will be at the head of those receiving the King at Damascus airport. Jordanian and Syrian flags have been hoisted throughout the airport and the road through which the motorcade will move to the presidential palace.

Talks between the Jordanian side led by the King and the Syrian

side led by President Assad will start upon immediately the King's arrival. In the evening the Syrian president will host a dinner in honour of the King and it will be attended by the three Syrian vice-presidents, speaker of the People's Assembly, senior Syrian officials as well as members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps.

Private talks will be held between the two leaders prior to expanded round of talks between the two sides on Tuesday morning. A joint communiqué will be issued in the evening in Amman and Damascus carrying results of talks between the two countries.

Cabinet prepares new draft law on elections

- Lower House to have 130 deputies
- Voting age set at 19 instead of 20

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament will be composed of 130 members instead of 60, representing the East and West Banks of Jordan, in accordance with a new draft law worked out by the cabinet, an official statement announced here Sunday.

The announcement said that the cabinet decided on the draft law following 10 hours of deliberations held on Saturday and Sunday and will refer it to Parliament for approval.

Under the new law voting age will be fixed at 19 instead of 20 as is the case at present, with the purpose of granting a larger sector of the population the right to vote for Parliament, the statement said.

According to the statement, the new law will cover the whole parliamentary process, beginning from the registration of voters to

the announcement of election results, and will take into consideration political and economic developments witnessed in Jordan over the past 25 years. These changes have made it necessary to introduce amendments to the old election law, first enacted in 1960, the statement said.

The new draft law requires from voters and candidates for Parliament to live in a constituency for a minimum number of years to make him or her eligible for voting or contesting elections for Parliament, according to the sta-

tement. It said that this measure will prevent manipulation in voting procedures and stop people from voting in more than one constituency.

The statement made it clear that the new law provides for stricter penalties and fines for violators of the election regulations, and also stipulates that all voters carry special cards which are to be considered legal identification cards during the election. No further details of the draft law were immediately available.

The present 60-member Lower House of Parliament includes equal number of deputies from the East and West Banks of Jordan.

In his speech from the throne in October His Majesty King Hussein promised that new amendments will be introduced to the election law to make it more adaptable to the present situation.

Israeli ministers demand 'revenge'

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli ministers demanded revenge on Sunday for guerrilla attacks at Rome and Vienna airports in which 18 people died and 114 were wounded.

"We should seek out the people responsible for such terrible acts," said Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein of the Shinui Party after emerging from a cabinet briefing on Friday's attacks.

Energy Minister Moshe Shalev of the Labor Party told reporters that Israel would take appropriate steps to punish guerrillas in the way and at the time it deemed fit.

Cabinet spokesman Yossi Beilin confirmed that the ministers were briefed on the airport bloodbaths but gave no indication whether the nine-party government had reached a decision on any retaliation.

A senior Israeli official, who asked not to be identified, told reporters earlier that Israel was still trying to determine who was behind the attacks.

The only gunman to survive the Rome massacre told an Italian magistrate he belonged to a group linked with Abu Nidal, a Palestinian leader violently opposed to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

A senior official briefing reporters on condition of anonymity said before the end of Sunday's meeting that "we are now at the stage where we are examining very carefully all the facts. Israel has not decided how it will act and will not announce its plans in advance."

The tough statements came despite an appeal for restraint by U.S. President Ronald Reagan who urged that efforts to seek a lasting peace not be disrupted.

The daily Jerusalem Post quoted a senior military source as saying the Abu Nidal faction which has ties with Syria and Libya was probably behind the attacks in Rome and Vienna.

But Israeli officials also discounted a denial of responsibility issued by the headquarters of the PLO in Tunis.

The Tunis headquarters was the target of an Oct. 1 air raid by Israel which the Jewish state said came in reprisal for the killing of three Israelis in Cyprus on Sept. 25.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, speaking to a group of Jewish Americans, deplored the attacks in Vienna and Rome. "We will not give in" to terrorism, he said. "We have to fight and we cannot accept it."

Referring to the headquarters of terrorist group, Rabin said: "Israel will feel free to decide when and where and by what means to attack them."

Israeli military analysts said it was likely that the Abu Nidal group was responsible for the attacks but it might be difficult to retaliate against the organisation.

The group has small installations in Syria, Libya and Lebanon rather than a large base similar to PLO headquarters in Tunis, which could be the target for an air raid, analysts said.

But Ariel Merari of the Jaffee centre for strategic studies says Abu Nidal is not immune from

Lebanon and Syria hail militia pact as first step towards peace

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon and Syria on Sunday welcomed the signing of a peace accord among Lebanon's three main militias as the first step towards ending almost 11 years of bloodshed and violence.

The leaders of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), the Shi'ite Amal and the rightist "Lebanese Forces" met for the first time to seal the accord on Saturday in the office of Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

The Damascus ceremony marked "the real birth of the second republic based on justice, equality and equal opportunity," the conservative Al Liwa daily said Sunday. But many papers said the real test was whether the accord could be implemented.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad received "Lebanese Forces" chief Elie Hobeika and PSP and Amal leaders Walid Jumblatt and Nabih Berri on Sunday. The meeting was expected to take place on Saturday and it was not known what caused the delay.

Following the meeting with the militia leaders on Sunday, President Assad pledged his country's backing for the peace accord, the official Syrian News Agency (SANA) reported.

It said he told the militiamen and other Lebanese notables at the presidential palace: "Syria will spare no effort to transform agreement on ending the Lebanese civil war into a reality on the ground."

Syria will continue to offer all assistance to the Lebanese brothers to move from the abnormal situation to a better position

where Lebanon can enjoy health, security and national reconciliation."

Mr. Assad praised what he called "the new reconciliatory spirit which dictated the accord and the high feeling of responsibility...."

"I am confident that all Lebanese who are enthusiastic about Lebanon's unity, independence and future, will not hesitate to support the tripartite pact and contribute towards ending the civil war and securing national reconciliation," Mr. Assad said, according to SANA.

Lebanese Education Minister Salim Hoss, whose Sunni Muslim community has no militia and took no part in the negotiations that led to the accord, said he approved the pact despite earlier reservations on its contents.

"We welcome an agreement that ends the state of war and returns the country to the atmosphere of political dialogue," Beirut Radio reported Mr. Hoss as saying.

Syrian newspapers hailed the armistice agreement as "the end of the Lebanese civil war."

Headlines and editorials described the agreement as "a historical national achievement" and "the most important event in 1985."

"The agreement has repercussions not only in Lebanon but also in the region and in the world," said the Al Baath daily, the mouthpiece of President Assad's ruling Al Baath party.

The agreement provides for a process to end the state of war within one year and the formation of a new national coalition gov-

ernment with powers to seek Syrian military intervention if the need arises.

Syria has 25,000 troops stationed in northern and eastern Lebanon under 1976 Arab League mandate to smother Lebanon's civil war.

The agreement appears to give the new government the right to call Syrian troops into Beirut to help quell any defiance to the mechanism to end the conflict.

Under the armistice agreement, all militias in Lebanon are to be disbanded and disarmed.

The accord stresses the need for escalated resistance to Israel's occupation of a border enclave in South Lebanon that the Jewish state maintains as "security zone" after withdrawing the bulk of its army last June, ending a three-year occupation.

The accord also calls for giving Muslims equal seats in parliament by expanding the current legislature from 99 members to 198. Christians held a six to five edge in the current parliament.

The agreement stipulates that the new government should form a special committee to write a new constitution for Lebanon within one year.

The new constitution will spell out a process of political reforms that would give Muslims an equal power share with the Christians, who have dominated the government, army, parliament and the judiciary since Lebanon's 1943 independence from France.

(Continued on page 3)
Lebanon ready for peace, page 4

Israelis expel Palestinian to E. Bank

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Israeli occupation authorities last week expelled Khaled Tantash to the East Bank after he completed serving 15 years of imprisonment in Israeli detention centres, the Palestinian News Agency (Wafa) reported on Sunday.

Mr. Tantash, who was among a batch of Palestinian prisoners freed in last May by the Israeli authorities in exchange for three Israeli soldiers captured in Lebanon, was forced out to the East Bank through the Wadi Arraba desert, Wafa said.

In another development in the West Bank, the Israeli authorities have launched a campaign against Christian leaders living in the occupied territories charging that they were cooperating with "enemies," Wafa said.

The Israeli daily Haaretz, which reported the new anti-Christian campaign also warned all heads of Christian churches in the West Bank of "the consequences of dealing with the enemies."

Palestinian sources explained Haaretz's "warning" to mean that the Israeli authorities have warned Christians to use their church-owned cars to smuggle arms and explosives.

The Israeli authorities sealed four houses belonging to Palestinian citizens in the Maslakh area in Bethlehem after they detained some members of the families for resistance activities.

U.S. nuclear test draws Soviet blast

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The official Soviet news agency TASS on Sunday condemned the latest U.S. underground nuclear test as proof that the United States would continue to seek armed superiority over the Soviet Union.

The U.S. Department of Energy said Saturday's test in the Nevada desert, code-named "Goldstone," had a yield of between 20 and 150 kilotons.

"The essence of the matter is that Washington intends to continue making attempts at achieving military-strategic superiority," TASS said.

"The explosion in Nevada also indicates that, contrary to the assurances of the White House that the United States seeks to lessen the nuclear threat, Washington stubbornly clings to a course aimed at further building up nuclear arsenals on earth and at transferring the arms race to space," it added.

An article in Sunday's Communist Party newspaper Pravda said the U.S. should join the Soviet Union in abandoning nuclear tests and accused the Reagan administration of evading the issue by

referring to problems of verification.

"There are no reasonable arguments against a ban on nuclear tests," Pravda said. "The allusions of the U.S. side to verification difficulties are unconvincing. The Soviet Union and the United States possess the necessary national technical means for it (verification)."

A Soviet moratorium on nuclear explosions expires on Dec. 31, and the official media have campaigned vigorously in the last few days against Washington's decision not to join Moscow in an extended ban on tests.

Pravda said the United States wanted to continue tests in order to provide energy for laser weapons to be developed under the strategic defence initiative (SDI), the U.S. plan for a space-based anti-missile shield.

It said the Soviet Union was ready to come to terms with the U.S. on some form of mutual inspection of test sites, as proposed by President Reagan.

Mr. Reagan has told Congress that the Soviet Union may have exceeded the agreed limits of the 1974 treaty.

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Arab press welcomes Lebanon peace pact

has appealed to the United Nations to stop Iran's offensive.

The weekly speculated that Iran may want to gain more time to mobilise and acquire weapons, that it is afraid of increased Soviet support for Iraq or that its leaders are fearful of the growing strength of the Iranian Revolutionary

The Observer said that

Mahdavi-Kani, whom it described as a former prime minister and interior minister, is the first top Iranian leader to make a political visit to a Western country since the 1979 Iranian revolution. It

Meanwhile the Iranian Navy has found 60 tonnes of explosives

The navy has begun unloading the five crates of explosives at an

The Tehran newspaper Abrar said the explosives, which were to reach Iraq via Kuwait, were of a kind used in the charges of military projectiles.

rengthening

st Israel

The accord would also make Syria "less adventurous and more moderate, especially as the probability of an explosion is always

Beirut's independent An Nahar newspaper said Syria insisted on the signing of the agreement "wherever it wants to include Israel."

"Success" would represent a strong card in any future negotiations for a settlement in the

Syria, its Golan Heights annexed by Israel four years ago, says there can be no real peace in the

After Israeli aircraft shot down two Syrian jets in a dogfight last month, Syria set up a new anti-aircraft barrier on its western bor-

By Edmond Khleif
Editor

The accord would also make Syria "less adventurous and more moderate, especially as the probability of an explosion is always there, internally and across the border with Israel," one Damascus analyst said.

Beirut's independent An Nahar newspaper said Syria insisted on the signing of the agreement "because it wants to include Jordan and Lebanon in the eastern front to create the strategic bal-

"Success would represent a strong card in any future negotiations for a settlement in the South (of Lebanon) and of the Middle East crisis," the daily added.

Syria, its Golan Heights annexed by Israel four years ago, says there can be no real peace in the Middle East as long as the Arabs do not achieve a balance of power with Israel.

After Israeli aircraft shot down two Syrian jets in a dogfight last month, Syria set up a new anti-aircraft barrier on its western border and later redeployed missiles in Lebanon to counter reconnaissance flights by Israel.

"When Syria spends more than half of its revenue on national defence this does not mean that war is its hobby but that it is keen about just peace," Prime Minister Abdul Rauf Kasm said last October.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES.

Amanan defence force	811228
Amanan civil government	198, 199
Civil Defence Irbit	271293, 273131
Civil Defence Qeweimeh	710733
Ambulance	195, 773111
Amanan downtown fire brigade	198
First aid	630404
Blood bank	778303
Civil Defence rescue	661111
Fire headquarters	622090, 637777
Police rescue	192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters	639141
Traffic police	895390/1
Electric Power Co.	636381/4, 646881
Municipal water complaints	771125/8
Queen Alla Int. Airport (08) 533046/0	

HOSPITALS

Haseela Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amman	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642662
Mallies, J. Amman	636140
Palentine, Shamsiah	664717/4
Shamsiah Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845843/6
Al-Munassef Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666175
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Iskafin, Al-Mahmud	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Madra	991631/5
Queen Alla Hospital	602240/50

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Farouk Noor	786680
Dr. Yousef Sumaizat	831311
First pharmacy	661912
Nairookh pharmacy	623672
Albura pharmacy	779756
Fayer pharmacy	661627
University pharmacy	644554
Abu Shanik pharmacy	770595

TAXIS:

Jerusalem taxi	639655
Khalid taxi	827715
Orshi taxi	646038
Kandi taxi	665925
Seyaha taxi	643265
First taxi	841085

IRBID:

Dr. Mazen Abu Baker	274699
Tels pharmacy	(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Yousef Abu Sa'ad	983063
Ra'id pharmacy	(—)

GENERAL

Jordan Television	773111/19
Radio Jordan	774111/19
Ministry of Tourism	642311
Hotel complaints	666412
Prices complaints	661176
Telephone Information	12
Jordan and Middle East calls	10
Overseas calls	17
Repair service	11

MARKET PRICES

(Fixed prices for imported produce)

Upper/lower price in /ils per kg.

Apple	250 / 200
Quince	140 / 100
Cherries	700 / 600
Cocoon (each)	530 / 450

Caulic (with leaves)	320 / 280
Caulic (without leaves)	380 / 400
Onion (dry)	180 / 140
Potatoes	150 / 140
Sage (green)	320 / 280

FJCC seeks closer trade links to Oman and S. Yemen

AMMAN (Petra) — The Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce (FJCC) has proposed to the government to take measures to strengthen Jordan's economic and trade ties with Oman and South Yemen, and said talks among teams from the three countries would help achieve that goal.

The proposal was contained in a memorandum submitted to Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher by FJCC President Hamdi Al Tabbaa and announced here Sunday.

The memo suggested forming a Jordanian economic team representing the private and public sectors in the country to conduct talks with Omani officials on this subject.

The aim of the talks will be to sound out the prospects of increasing bilateral trade and lan-

ching joint economic ventures and establishing a holding company to serve both Oman and Jordan, the memo said.

It said that the proposal was made in a bid to bolster inter-Arab economic ties in implementation of recommendations and resolutions passed by a meeting of Arab chambers of commerce, agriculture and industry held in Muscat on Dec. 24.

In his memo, Mr. Tabbaa also proposed setting up a permanent trade exhibit to display Jordanian agricultural and industrial products in Aden, South Yemen in the coming year.

He said that South Yemeni officials have welcomed the proposal from their side and expressed readiness to set up such an exhibit, and also to allow Jordanian exporters to sell products directly to the public in South Yemen.

RSS to monitor quality of water

By Kerstin Wichmann
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) will soon begin continuously monitoring water quality throughout Jordan, except in Aqaba, under a five-year contract with the Ministry of Municipality and Rural Affairs, according to Mr. Muaid Bino, director of the RSS's Industrial Chemistry Department (ICD) and head of its environmental division.

Under the contract, estimated at JD 50,000 per year, the ICD will take 800 samples each year of five kinds of water: industrial waste water, sewage, service water, drinking water, and natural mineral water. The purpose of the contract is to provide information that will enable Jordan to maintain the purity of its water supplies.

In the Aqaba region, with its unique marine life, the RSS already cooperates on a contract basis with the Aqaba Regional Authority to monitor industrial waste as well as air pollution levels in Aqaba.

Jordan's rapid industrial development necessitated the foundation and later the extension of the ICD, according to Mr. Bino, who explained that one of the several tasks of the environmental section is to detect and monitor water pollution, which has increased with industrialization. The ICD aims at developing suitable measures to prevent damage to the environment which could prove hazardous to humans.

The water pollution project began in 1976 with an analysis of the water quality of the Zarqa river. According to Mr. Bino, the

water was expected to be rather contaminated because the Zarqa river is the only drainage for the Amman area. Since the Zarqa river is fairly small, it was expected that the concentration of pollutants would be high.

"But in the end," Mr. Bino said, "it turned out that the concentration of harmful substances was not as serious as assumed."

In 1977 the RSS collaborated with the Water Corporation, (now the Water Authority) in monitoring the water quality of the King Talal Dam. This project was financed with JD 25,000 by the Water Corporation. When the contract ended in 1980, the RSS continued monitoring on a contract basis with the Jordan Valley Authority.

Both the Zarqa river and the King Talal Dam projects led to the formation of national water quality standards. Mr. Bino explained that those standards are the present guidelines for Jordanian industries, although they are not legally established. According to Mr. Bino, however, there is a bill pending in Parliament that would supply the legal grounds for enforcing environmental pollution.

A further RSS function is to train industrial staff in the fields of environmental protection. Eleven industrial establishments introduced have received assistance in ways of purifying wastewater with the help of sewage treatment plants.

Mr. Bino added that the RSS cooperates closely with the Ministry of Municipality and Rural Affairs to advise local industries on limiting environmental pollution.



HANDICRAFT EXHIBITION OPENS: Nazari Social Development Centre. The ten-day Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh opened display includes embroidery, artificial flowers, straw, sewing, and textile works (Petra photo)

Committee recommends wide range of solutions to Amman traffic problem

AMMAN (J.T.) — In an innovative attempt to solve the issue of traffic congestion in Amman, a special national committee on traffic has suggested the introduction of a regular high-speed train network between Amman and Zarqa and the restriction of car entry to the downtown area on the basis of the car's "odd or even" plate numbers.

The committee, which recently concluded its deliberations on traffic issues in Amman, has forwarded its final report to the concerned authorities in which it indicated that immediate measures related to the Public Transport Corporation (PTC), service taxis, taxis, external taxi services, the redistribution of commercial zoning, organising office work hours and restricting the entry of cars to the downtown area should be adopted.

According to the report, these numerous institutions and factors were "directly involved in the issue of bottlenecks and therefore, they should be the direct partners in any bids to settle the problem at stake."

In their report, the committee suggested that "all external roads leading into the downtown area should be widened to allow for a free flow of traffic. They also called on all concerned parties to fix special taxi terminals in the downtown area where taxis can wait for their customers instead of having to tour the downtown area in search for customers. According to statistical information, 50 per cent of the total daily cars which move in the downtown area are "vacant taxis" searching for customers.

The committee also suggested that varying office hours be adopted by different organisations with a 15 minute interval between office opening and closing hours in order to avoid heavy simultaneous commuter traffic and eventually reduce traffic congestion. They concluded that the peak of traffic flow inside Amman occurs daily between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Other reasons for traffic congestion inside Amman as identified by the committee are the lack of wide pedestrian paths to accommodate pedestrians in the souk area, the insistence of visitors and citizens to shop and travel via external taxi services and the absence of fixed car parks for the loading and unloading of goods.

A number of previous measures to curb the rising traffic congestion have already been implemented by Amman Municipality as part of a working plan which was studied by the municipality in 1982 and executed in 1984. The 1984 plan introduced sweeping structural changes to the downtown area such as restricting special roads in the area for bus stops, while "other streets" were limited for pedestrians as well as the introduction of some street diversions to facilitate the traffic flow.

According to the committee's report, the 1984 plan helped to ease traffic congestion inside the Amman area until the construction works on the Ministry of Interior and the Sports City interchange started on Oct. 19 and exacerbated the traffic flow problem.

The committee, which attempted to meet the country's general welfare without affecting Jordan's economic sectors, has recommended a number of immediate and long-term steps to control and facilitate the flow of traffic inside the city.

The committee's immediate plans to solve the traffic problems include:

— Calling on the PTC to renew the operation of its circular bus routes.

— Introducing special signs for service taxis operating between the downtown Amman area and the city's suburbs on which each sign will bear the car's destination. This step will also prevent the service taxis from dropping or picking up any customers at random.

— Calling on Amman Municipality not to issue any trade or service licences in areas where parking lots are not available.

— Decentralising the distribution of commercial zoning, taking into consideration the shopping needs of the densely populated areas and the availability of parking places.

— Banning the stop of any vehicle inside the downtown area and in the circumference of the city's main commercial roads.

The committee's long-term plans to tackle the issue of traffic congestion in Amman includes a feasibility study on circular bus routes which would avoid the downtown area, and to allocate a 4,000 metre taxi terminal where taxis could be called via wireless radio telephones.

Government moves ahead with municipality reform

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government is going ahead with plans to establish the Greater Amman area that will embody municipalities and village councils that lie around the capital. As part of the reform all the current councils will be dissolved but will be represented in the Greater Amman Council, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Hmoud announced here Sunday.

Speaking at a meeting held at Amman Municipality and attended by heads of municipal and village councils in the Amman area, the minister said that the Greater Amman Council will take charge of all public services for capital and the towns and villages attached to it in the suburbs.

After a three-year transitional period areas around Amman will be permitted to elect small municipal councils for extending local services, but the Greater Amman council will remain in charge of planning and executing major projects, the minister pointed out.

He said that all laws pertaining to municipalities will be amended to adapt to the new arrangements under the supervision of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs.

The amended law will authorise the cabinet to increase the number of council members whenever this is needed and will create an administrative unit to take charge of organisational matters and to control the implementation of the different projects, the minister added.

He said the integration of administration and services will eventually put an end to random construction operations.

According to the minister, the Greater Amman Area will embody the municipal and village councils of Wadi Seer, Umm Al Summaq, Khulda, Tla Ali, Sweileh, Al Jubeha, Um Qasir, Al Mughablin, Al Qweisemeh, Al Jweideh, Khreibet Al Souq, Jawa, Abu Alanda, Tareq, Dabouq, Al Bunayyat, Rajib, Al Musheirfeh and Al Khashafeh.

Mr. Hmoud said that his ministry was keen on promoting public services to all regions inside and outside Amman. The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs is also keen on developing the work of joint councils which offer common services to clusters of villages that together form one unit.

Also speaking at the meeting was Mr. Kamal Jallouqa, director

of the Greater Amman Area Project, who outlined the developments in Amman and the growth of the city since 1948.

As it grew the capital began to surround a number of neighbouring areas around it such as Abdoun and Marka, which necessitated working out a comprehensive plan to handle different projects for the expanding areas of the capital, Mr. Jallouqa said. Since the capital has been enlarged further, certain measures should be introduced to ensure better services for all, he added.

Mr. Jallouqa said that the Greater Amman area requires joint sewerage and water projects, electricity, streets, and other joint services that cannot be divided and should rather be maintained in an integrated manner, hence the call for the establishment of an enlarged council comprising Amman Municipality and the other smaller municipalities around it.

Later the participants in the meeting held an open discussion on the project's various aspects.

It was decided at the meeting that the heads of municipal and village councils should meet in three days time to present views about the project.

The meeting was attended by Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh, Amman Governor Ali Al Bashir and other officials.

Irbid police uncover crime ring

IRBID (J.T.) — Police in Irbid have apprehended a three-member gang of robbers and con men who have accumulated a fortune through burglary, forgery, and by posing as collectors of contributions for charity and mosques.

Irbid Police Department Director Col. Abdul Rahman Al Udwan told newsmen that the group often approached businessmen, institutions, and ordinary citizens to obtain contributions for charitable causes and for building mosques, and issued receipts with the stamp of the Department of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

Col. Udwan said that the stamps and the signatures were all fake and prepared by the group leaders identified only as 37-year old AMS. In this way the group collected large sums of money and would have continued to do so had they not been intercepted by the police, who became aware of their activities, Col. Udwan said.

To obtain the seals, the group

raided the Department of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in Irbid and stole the seal and some official papers and documents for the purpose of making voucher books bearing the insignia and the stamp of the department, Col. Udwan added.

He said that during the interrogation the police found out that the ring leader has a record of criminal activity dating back 20 years, and suffered from drug addiction as well. In order to obtain drugs from pharmacies the gang leader had on several occasions broken into doctors' clinics and

obtained prescription papers, stamps and forged signatures which he used to fraudulently obtain sedatives and other drugs, Col. Udwan explained.

The group had also on different occasions broken into lawyers' offices and hairdresser saloons to steal a number of items which were discovered at their home. The group members told police that one of them used to pose a sheikh (religious man) to raise contributions and used to recite verses of the Holy Koran in a bid to convince people of their mission.

Ph.D. programmes considered at meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Possibilities for setting Ph.D. programmes in various human sciences fields at Jordanian universities were the topic of discussion during a meeting held Sunday at the University of Jordan by officials from the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University and Mu'ta University. Officials from the three universities stressed the importance of post-graduate studies and scientific research and the urgent need for going ahead with this approach to provide local and Arab communities with qualified specialists. The meeting was chaired by University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali.

Judicial institute legislation expected to upgrade legal profession in Jordan

By Josephine Zamanri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Draft legislation recently drawn up by some of Amman's eminent legal figures concerning the establishment of a Judicial Institute is expected to have a far reaching effect on Jordan's legal profession. The original impetus for reform came from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who proposed the establishment of the Judicial Institute for the express purpose of upgrading the educational standards of both Jordan's lawyers and judges and creating uniform understanding of Jordan's existing legal system.

Several of Jordan's most respected legal figures have been involved in the creation of the institute, including Judge Rafeh Al Wazzani and Judge Fouad Khoury, both members of the Court of Cassation — the Jordanian equivalent of the High Court. Professor Mohammad Hammoury, dean of the Law Faculty at the University of Jordan and Mr. Hussein Mejleji, head of the Jordanian Bar Association.

Judge Khoury, who has a long and distinguished career in Jordan's courts, explains the origins of the legal system in the Kingdom. The present criminal and civil legal codes he says are based upon two sources: The French law introduced into Jordan during the Ottoman era and the British law which was incorporated into the East Bank system after it amalgamated with the West Bank.

In Jordan, says Judge Khoury "the civil and criminal laws apply to everyone. Religious law is applicable to personal status, for Muslims there is Sharia law and Christians have their own ecclesiastical courts depending upon their sect."

Apprenticeship training

Dr. Hammoury points out that with the apprenticeship system, the development of students is uneven. "Older lawyers each have their own way of training the young and some give more time and attention than others," he says.

"For Jordan, the problem was more complicated," he continues, "as students graduate from all over the world and their knowledge of the objective rules of the court (that is the points of law) and of court procedures as practised in Jordan are limited."

Both Judge Khoury and Professor Hammoury point out that several Arab countries, including Iraq, Egypt, Morocco and Lebanon, have already established Judicial Institutes and that Jordan has sought their advice and

prison sentences not exceeding three years. The District Court hears cases of greater significance. Anyone sentenced by either of the lower courts can make an appeal against its decision in the Court of Appeal. The Court of Cassation is the equivalent of the High Court or Supreme Court and as Judge Khoury points out, "it is concerned with points of law or weighing evidence in which an individual believes his sentence to be unfair."

The establishment of a Judicial Institute will complement the already existing legal system by reforming the training of young lawyers and judges and enhancing their knowledge of Jordanian law.

At present, explains Professor Hammoury, "law graduates serve an apprenticeship before being allowed to practise as either lawyers or judges". Young lawyers serve a two year training period with a registered lawyer while judges or magistrates are employed by the Ministry of Justice for a three to four year period as court scribes. As Professor Hammoury points out, the apprenticeship system was an internationally accepted one. However, with the growing sophistication of legal principles, international reform has largely swept away what he calls "these guilds of the Middle East."

The final form of the Judicial Institute is as yet undecided as it must pass through the "necessary constitutional steps before being legalised," says Dr. Hammoury.

However, it is likely to be controlled by the Ministry of Justice, the Bar Association and the University of Jordan. The course offered by the institute will be for two academic years and will be obligatory for all newly graduating law students before they are allowed to practise their professions as either lawyers or judges.

Judge Khoury and Professor Hammoury say that studies at the institute will concentrate on three areas. First of all the laws of Jordan in both their procedural and substantive applications, secondly on case histories with students being given previous court cases and asked to determine the verdict and the third area of training will take place within Amman's courts where students will actually see legal proceedings first hand.

The courses offered to the institute's scholars are to be in Arabic, says Professor Hammoury, but it has been suggested that some training be carried out in English, as much legal material has been written in that language.

The Judicial Institute will probably be housed within the University of Jordan grounds, says Judge Khoury, but its exact status in regard to the university is as yet undecided.

Both judges hope the institute will be operational within two years and they see it as not only related to the training of freshly graduated lawyers and judges but to their profession as a whole.

Lebanon and Syria hail militia peace agreement

(Continued from page 1)

The accord also reduces the president's powers, but not as much as Muslim negotiators have been demanding.

The president, traditionally a Maronite Catholic, remains as commander-in-chief of the armed forces with prerogatives to name the prime minister.

The agreement slightly boosts the powers of the prime minister, traditionally a Sunni Muslim.

In a gesture that underlined the atmosphere of reconciliation, Mr. Junblatt, Mr. Berri and Mr. Hobeika held talks with Mr. Assad and Mr. Khaddam to discuss ways to implement the agreement.

Mr. Khaddam, the architect of the agreement, later told reporters "Syria will continue to work for the sake of Lebanon's independence, security and sovereignty."

Mr. Berri and Mr. Junblatt are Syrian allies of long standing, but it was the first encounter between Mr. Assad and Mr. Hobeika, who took over the mostly Christian militia only last May.

Mr. Hobeika will need Syrian support as he tries to neutralise hostility to the accord in the Christian camp, where older politicians distrust clauses to end the dominance Christians have enjoyed in Lebanese politics since 1943.

"I feel like a bridegroom on his wedding night," Mr. Hobeika, 29, told Beirut Radio after the signing.

In Washington, the State Department cautiously welcomed the deal with a statement saying: "We have always believed a broadly-based political dialogue that would lead to genuine consensus is the only way to obtain restoration of Lebanon's unity, sovereignty and independence." (See page 2).

Syria will act as the pact's guarantor.

Asserting Syria's eagerness to see the accord through, Mr. Khaddam on Saturday privately warned the three chieftains Syria would measure its ties with each of the signatories according to the degree of adherence to the armistice, informed sources told the AP.

He warned that Syria's alliance with any of three factions would be altered if any of them violates the pact.

Lebanon's war has claimed at least 100,000 lives and cost up to \$20 billion in damage since it erupted in 1975.

Saturday's agreement is the first time militias have agreed directly to stop the conflict through a plan to remove grievances that kept it alive.

President Amin Gemayel and

leaders of the main Christian party, the Falange, took no part in the talks.

"Decisions on crucial issues, cannot be taken by a single Christian group," the Falange said three days ago. Mr. Hobeika and the "Lebanese Forces" split from the Falange earlier this year.

In Beirut, the pact was greeted with a mixture of optimism and scepticism.

"This news is wonderful — our dreams come true," said a taxi driver, blaring his car horn in celebration as news of the accord came over the radio.

"We want peace, but I don't know about the people on the other side," said a 16-year-old militiaman on the green line.

In mostly Christian east Beirut, hardline militia leader Samir Geagea reacted cautiously to the news.

"Let no-one think that peace is

made in assembly halls or in the capitals of foreign countries," Mr. Geagea, "Lebanese Forces" chief of staff, told a passing out parade for militia recruits.

"If we want real peace, we should seek a real balance of power," he said. "And if we want that real balance of power, we should seek to have an effective military force."

Security was meanwhile tightened at Beirut airport as high-flying Israeli war planes broke the sound barrier over the capital, sharpening fears of reprisals for Friday's guerrilla attacks on Israeli airline check-in desks in Rome and Vienna.

Measures to keep cars and non-travellers away from the terminal were "a precaution after the Rome and Vienna attacks to prevent such incidents at Beirut," an airport official said.

Israeli ministers demand 'revenge'

(Continued from page 1)

retaliation. "First of all, Abu Nidal is human and as such he is susceptible to bullets the same as his victims," he said.

In a move apparently aimed at Israel, President Reagan sent messages to a number of unnamed governments on Saturday urging restraint following the airport attacks.

The senior Israeli official said the attacks were aimed at damaging the Middle East peace process and should be "avenged."

North Yemen and South Yemen were reported on Sunday to be coordinating military defence to confront an expected attack by Israel. Citing unidentified officials in the two Red Sea countries,

the newspaper Al Itihad said that combined measures for protecting Qamaran and Mayon islands was the main topic in the agenda of a meeting of the presidents of the two Yemens in Sana'a earlier in the week.

The paper was referring to the summit between Presidents Ali Nasser Mohammad of South Yemen and Ali Abdullah Saleh of North Yemen.

Precautionary measures were taken after the two Yemens had detected reconnaissance flights by Israeli military jets over the southern Red Sea strait of Bab Al Mandeb and the two nearby islands, the paper said.

It quoted the same officials as denying reports about the PLO maintaining military bases in Qamaran.

"The PLO military bases are in the mountains (of South Yemen) and not in Qamaran, which is an island of 10,000 people," Al Itihad quoted one South Yemeni official as saying.

The same source, it added, said that Israel had voiced fears that the PLO might use the two islands to monitor activities of Israeli navy units in the Red Sea.

PLO leader Salah Khalaf was quoted meanwhile as telling the Kuwait newspaper Al Anba that Israel was bracing for an attack on South Yemen and North Yemen.

"Israeli warplanes recently reconnoitred North Yemen, where hundreds of Palestinian commandos are deployed," said Mr. Khalaf. "The PLO has taken adequate defence precautions, in anticipation of the aggression."

Surviving gunmen confuse police

(Continued from page 1)

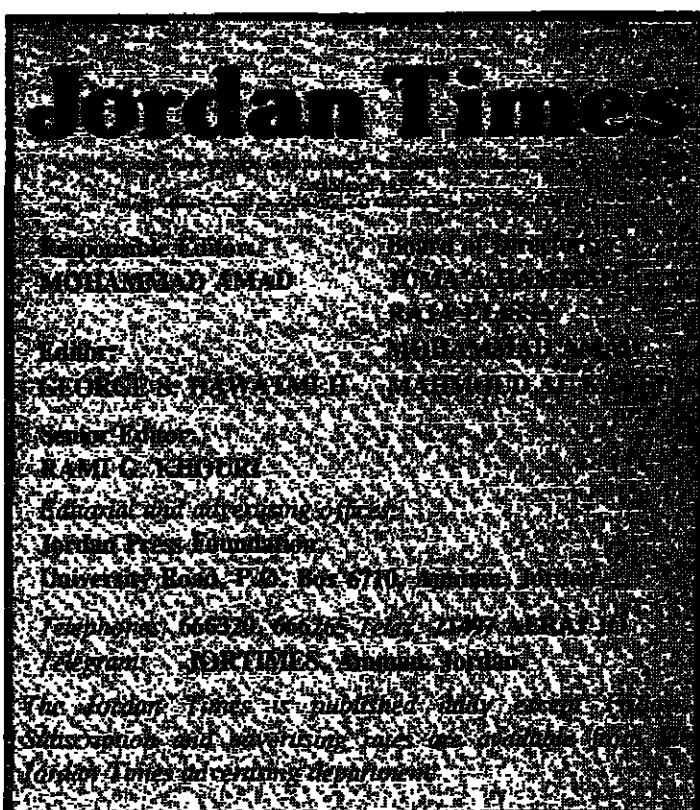
were under way to find out whether the three had been high on drugs when they stormed into the terminal. The results were not expected before Monday.

Police identified the dead Vienna attacker as Mongi Ben Abd-

ullah Saadaoui, 26, and his two suspected accomplices as Merzoughi, 25, and Ben Ahmad Chaoual, 25. They said Chaoual had been shot in the stomach and Merzoughi had sustained a less serious chest wound.

Rudolf Schiesel, the physician

on call at the AKH hospital that admitted the two Friday, told the A.P. that Merzoughi's condition had improved and he had been transferred to a prison infirmary. Chaoual remained at the hospital in satisfactory condition.



Happy developments for all

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's visit to Damascus, which is due to start today, is bound to open a new chapter in Jordanian-Syrian relations after an era of estrangement and a state of tension between the two sister countries that lasted well over five years. First, crowning a partial but crucial success in the work of the Arab League reconciliation committee that had been charged with settling Syria's differences with Jordan and Iraq, the visit will no doubt contribute greatly towards holding the long-delayed Arab summit conference. Second, coming close on the heels of a series of successful Jordanian-Syrian meetings resulting in agreements on revitalising joint economic projects and easing travel and trade restrictions, this visit is also very important not only for lending impetus to joint economic endeavours but because it offers an opportunity for King Hussein and President Assad to closely study and also endorse a joint strategy with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Damascus, which opens its arms today for the King and his accompanying delegation in an historic welcome to brothers seeking lasting reconciliation, has just bidden farewell to Lebanese leaders and heads of warring factions who signed an historic accord on ending the civil war in Lebanon and bringing stability, security and peace to their country.

This accord should end the 10-year old civil strife that cost 100,000 lives and \$20 billion in material losses and brought about untold sufferings and devastation throughout Lebanon.

Both the King's visit to Damascus and the signing of the accord in the Syrian capital are happy developments for the Arab World as they usher in a new era of peace in the Lebanon-Syria-Jordan triangle and pave the way for fruitful cooperation on the bilateral and pan-Arab levels.

These happy developments, however, important as they are, ought to be followed by meaningful efforts designed to avoid mistakes of the past and remove unfavourable conditions that could breed seeds of contention and distrust among Arabs if we are to realise the true solidarity that we all need to protect our rights and aspirations. This, we trust, will happen, and soon, because the alternative to it is imminent self-destruction and endless suffering without much hope.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Israel's responsibility

THE twin terrorist attacks on Rome and Vienna airports drew quick condemnation from the PLO and the Arab World, but despite that fact, Israel has stepped up a campaign through the world to damage the image of the Arabs. Israel has been committing acts of terrorism against the Palestinian people, and these acts should be viewed as more dangerous to humanity as they are organised by Israel as a state rather than by individuals. The Israeli acts of terrorism have been behind many sufferings and tragedies that ensued in our region, and caused desperate elements among the Arab people to launch terrorist attacks on the Israelis everywhere. It was Israel who first introduced terrorism in our region through its continued arbitrary actions against the Palestinian people, its aggression on Arab countries and its continued occupation of Arab territory. Israel therefore, bears most of the blame in any escalation of acts of terrorism in our region, and should be held responsible for the terrorist attacks on innocent civilians in Rome and Vienna.

Al Dustour: Lebanon vies for peace

THE Lebanese signed a Syrian-sponsored armistice agreement in Damascus on Saturday to put an end to a 10-year-old civil strife in their country, and to bring back stability and peace to Lebanon. The signing of the agreement is to be considered as the final station in the long bloody march that the Lebanese people have had to go through and could mark the end of all bloodshed in the strife-torn country. Over the past 10 years, the Lebanese people paid dearly for their actions and for allowing their militias to take control of the streets, the cities and the life of the Lebanese people themselves. The agreement is a welcome development for all Arabs who wish Lebanon's goodwill. It should be regarded as a major political achievement ending a long period of agony. Such agreement would no doubt prevent further tampering with Lebanon's internal affairs on the part of Israel, and other hostile forces. The agreement, if honoured by all parties and signatories, would bring to an end all forms of destruction and killing, and would open a new chapter in the life of the Lebanese people.

Sawt Al Shaab: The road to peace

THE signing of an armistice agreement by the warring factions in Lebanon is not only a major achievement for Damascus, which had been mediating among them, but also a victory for reason and wisdom. The signing of the agreement is but the first step towards ending the Lebanese crisis for good if the involved parties are true in their commitment and loyal to their country. The signing of the agreement came after long years of strife that left untold destruction and many tragedies in Lebanon, but had to come about to bring peace which the Lebanese people had longed for and hoped to attain. The signatories do realise that a long and complicated political process awaits them, before they can find lasting peace; and they do know that Israel still occupies part of their territory and still interferes in Lebanon's internal affairs with the purpose of thwarting their agreement and their decision to unite. Lebanon should be reconstructed, but for this to happen, its people should rise to the level of responsibility and should not allow hostile elements to intrude and to abort their agreement.

Lebanon ready for peace after decade of civil war

By Alistair Lyon
Renter

BEIRUT — Rival Christian and Muslim militias, which have carved Lebanon into a patchwork of sectarian fiefdoms, Saturday signed an accord to lay down their arms after 10 years of civil war.

The pact, negotiated and signed in the Syrian capital Damascus, formally commits the Christian, Shi'ite and Druze militias to political reforms removing the roots of war and laying a basis for lasting peace.

Syria was embroiled almost from the start and sent in troops in 1976 to stop Palestinian and Muslim groups overwhelming the Christian minority.

Palestinian fighters were eventually driven out of Lebanon by an Israeli invasion in 1982, leaving the battleground to heavily-armed Muslim and Christian militias.

After a decade of fighting, each militia has won virtual hegemony

over chunks of Lebanon, often by driving out civilians with conflicting religious loyalties.

However, a decisive victory has eluded both Christians and Muslims, with neither community able to impose its political will on the whole country.

But the struggle has cost at least 100,000 lives and an estimated \$15 to 20 billion in war damage, forced thousands of Lebanese to emigrate and provoked widespread disillusion with the militias.

The latest peace push came after Christian "Lebanese Forces" chief Elie Hobeika, Shi'ite Muslim Amal leader Nabih Berri and Walid Junblatt of the Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) all acknowledged Syria's key role in Lebanon.

For many Christians, making up about 45 per cent of Lebanon's three million people, the peace accord is a bitter pill as it provides for phasing out the sectarian sys-

tem which has given them political dominance since independence in 1943.

The Lebanese Forces, a coalition of four militias, seemed as hostile to change as the community's traditional political leaders until it split from the right-wing Falangist Party, loyal to President Amin Gemayel, last March.

After Christian defeats in Beirut, the Shouf mountains and south Lebanon Hobeika took over as the militia's leader in May, vowing to break off all ties with Israel and rely on Syria.

Hobeika, 29, was linked by an Israeli commission of inquiry with the massacre of Palestinians in the Beirut refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila during Israel's 1982 invasion.

Hobeika's militia holds sway in Christian east Beirut and the mountain hinterland, where it runs a virtual mini-state and levies taxes to buy arms.

However, his terms for peace have been contested by older politicians like ex-president Camille Chamoun and Christian unity has been undermined by his rivalry with Gemayel.

Former president Suleiman Franjeh, who has his own fiefdom in Syrian-controlled north Lebanon, has also challenged Hobeika's authority to speak for the Christians.

Amal militia chief Berri also faces problems in the 850,000 strong Shi'ite community, the poorest and fastest-growing community in Lebanon, and must contend with Muslim fundamentalist ambitions for an Iranian-style Islamic republic.

Berri, a suave 46-year-old lawyer, took over Amal two years after the 1978 disappearance of its founder Imam Musa Sadr. Sadr began the "Movement of the Dispossessed" in 1974 to voice Shi'ite grievances and Amal became its

military wing.

His fighters dominate Beirut's teeming southern suburbs and with Druze help drove Christian-led army troops from west Beirut in February 1984 — their first major victory.

In south Lebanon, Amal helped organise mass resistance to Israeli occupation.

This year Amal has tried to restrict guerrilla attacks to territory still held by Israel in a bid to avert Israeli reprisals on Shi'ite villages in south Lebanon.

Druze chieftain Walid Junblatt has publicly denounced everyday symbols of national unity like the Lebanese flag and anthem, banning them from the Shouf mountains he controls.

But the fiery 40-year-old leader, secure in the loyalty of the close-knit Druze, can commit his people to the peace agreement with less fear of challenge than Hobeika or Berri.

Junblatt inherited his tough position and leadership of the leftist National Movement coalition when his father Kamal was assassinated in 1977.

The National Movement fell apart under the stress of Israel's 1982 invasion, but the PSP scored a series of military successes against the Christians, giving the Druze a sizeable area and influence disproportionate to their numbers.

Junblatt, a virulent critic of president Gemayel as a symbol of Maronite Christian power, expressed doubts that the Damascus agreement will bring lasting peace.

Leaders of Lebanon's Sunni Muslims have supported the accord, though not directly involved in negotiations. The Sunni Murrabitoun militia was wiped out in street battles with Amal and Druze fighters in west Beirut earlier this year.

1975-1985: Ten years of Lebanese civil war

BEIRUT (R) — Following is a chronology of the main events in the Lebanese civil war, formally ended by the signature on Saturday of a peace pact agreed by warring militias.

— 1975: Fighting erupts in April after mostly rightist Christian gunmen ambush busload of Palestinians in Beirut suburb, killing some 30 occupants. Cabinet resigns as fighting between rightists, and an alliance of mainly Muslim leftists and Palestinians spreads and intensifies.

— 1976: Rightists overrun Palestinian refugee camps in east Beirut in January and Syrian troops intervene to try to prevent all-out war. Lebanese army disintegrates and Syrians enter Beirut in November as part of Saudi Arabian backed deterrent force. Elias Sarkis succeeds Suleiman Franjeh as president in September.

— 1977: Fighters of the predominantly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) overrun Christian villages in March after assassination of Druze leader Kamal Junblatt.

— 1978: Israel invades South Lebanon and sets up a "security zone" under client militia, but withdraws as U.N. peacekeeping troops deploy. Syrian-rightist fighting erupts in Beirut.

— 1979: Pro-Israeli militia proclaims state of "Free Lebanon" in "security zone" in April and begins shelling U.N. troops.

— 1981: Fighting erupts in eastern town of Zahle between Syrians and rightists under Bashir Gemayel, uncontested militia chief since crushing rivals previous year. Syria installs SAM-6 anti-aircraft missiles in eastern Bekaa Valley and Israel demands their removal. Israel begins air strikes against Palestinian positions in south and Beirut.

— 1982: Israel invades Lebanon in June with declared aim of ousting Palestinian guerrillas, push Syrian troops from capital and besiege west Beirut for 10 weeks. Palestinian fighters evacuate Beirut in August under U.S.-sponsored accord and multinational peacekeeping force deployed.

Israelis occupy west Beirut and rightist militiamen massacre hundreds of Palestinian civilians in Beirut camps after President-elect Bashir Gemayel assassinated in bomb explosion. Gemayel's brother Amin elected president.

Multinational force, withdrawn after Palestinian pullout, starts returning to Beirut following massacre.

— 1983: Car bomb kills more than 50 people at U.S. embassy in April. Syria rejects accord negotiated by Gemayel with Israel for withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. PSP overruns Christian villages after Israelis quit hills above Beirut.

Suicide truck bombings kill 241 U.S. servicemen and 58 French paratroopers of multinational force in October.

Lebanese national reconciliation talks begin in Geneva, but adjourn in controversy over accord with Israel. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat evacuates northern port of Tripoli with his fighters after siege by Syrian-backed Palestinian rebels.

— 1984: Militiamen seize west Beirut from any units loyal to Gemayel in February despite shelling of PSP and Shi'ite areas by Lebanese army and U.S. forces. Multinational forces, including U.S. troops, withdraw by end of February.

Gemayel cancels accord with Israel in March, but fighting continues despite establishment of Syrian-backed "national unity" government.

— 1985: Israelis, under daily guerrilla attack, begin pullout in February after talks on negotiated withdrawal fail. Israeli "iron fist" raids on villages fail to stem attacks and rightists suffer string of defeats in turmoil of withdrawal.

Hundreds die in fighting in Beirut refugee camps and shelling and car bomb attacks during the summer.

Syrian troops take control of Tripoli in October after battles between pro-Syrian and Muslim radicals. The three main militias sign peace pact formally ending civil war after three months of peace talks in Damascus.

U.S. Congress heads into stormy year

By Michael Posner
Renter

WASHINGTON — A divided U.S. Congress faces election-year battles in 1986 over President Reagan's military build-up, his "Star Wars" missile defence plan and proposed tax reforms as Reagan heads towards the twilight of his presidency.

Despite the heavy load of major proposals, members of the Republican-run Senate and the Democratic-dominated House of Representatives plan to spend as much time working for reelection as on legislation.

Thirty-four of the 100 Senate seats — including 22 now held by Reagan's fellow Republicans — and all 435 House seats will be at stake in a November 4 election that comes half-way through the president's final four-year term.

The 99th Congress starts the new year — officially on January 21 — under pressure to make drastic budget cuts and produce a balanced budget for 1991 for the first time since Lyndon Johnson left a small surplus in the late 1960s.

A mandatory balanced budget plan that Congress passed in December was perhaps the highlight of a session which also saw the lawmakers agree to a redirection of U.S. foreign policy from a post-Vietnam period of shying away from involvement in conflicts abroad.

They voted aid to rebels in Nicaragua, Afghanistan and Kampuchea and opened the door to resuming aid in Angola.

But they left unsettled until 1986 a final disposition of Rea-

gan's top domestic priority — the most radical overhaul and simplification of the U.S. taxation system since World War II.

Research on "Star Wars," as Reagan's cherished Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) anti-missile scheme is popularly known, is also due for serious debate and possible cutback in the coming months.

The sophisticated programme, which will cost tens of billions of dollars, must compete with other defence needs in the new budget climate of a Congress and a president required by law to end 200-billion-dollar deficits in five years.

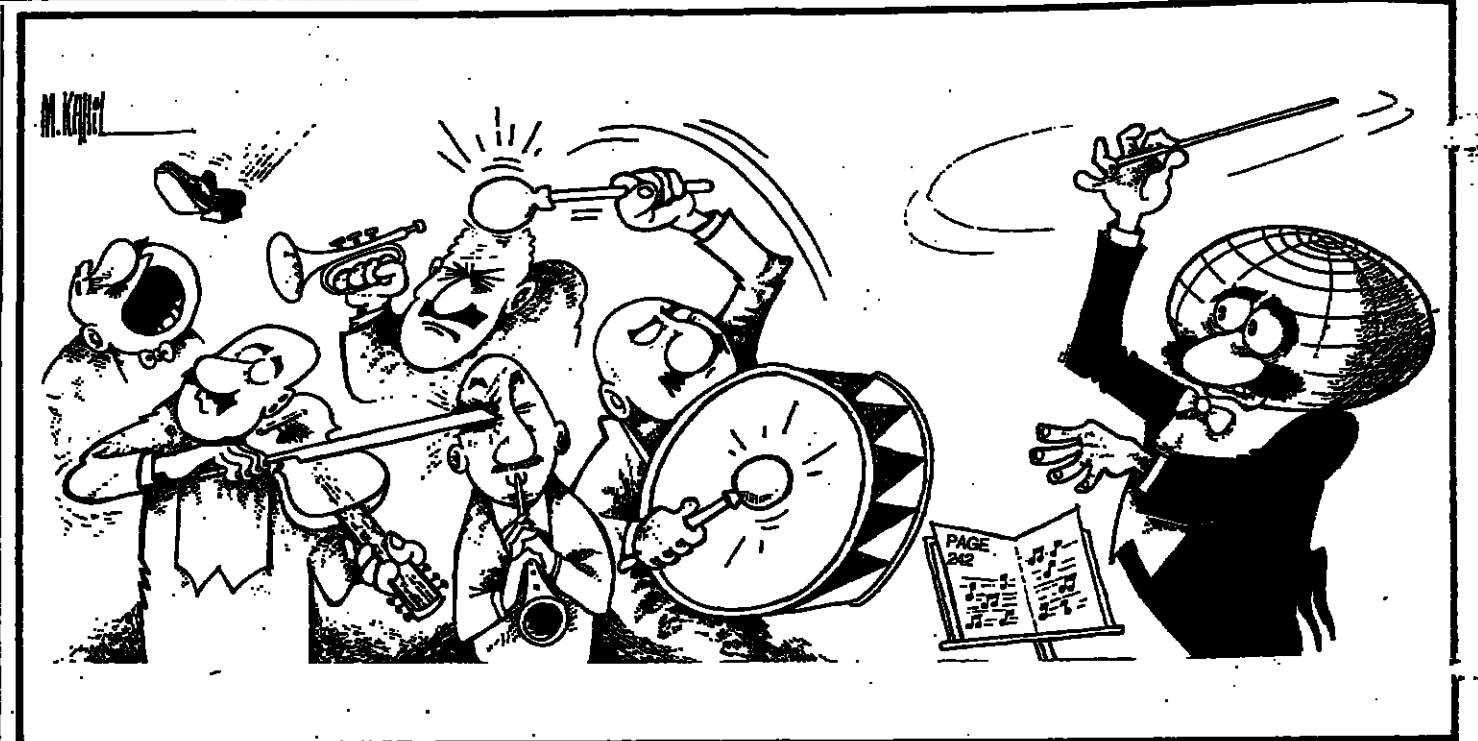
The Pentagon has warned that the vast military build-up during the Reagan years — which has seen more than \$1,000 billion added for defence — may be jeopardised by the mandatory budget cuts.

The administration has the goal of continuing defence spending at three per cent above inflation, over \$300 billion and nearly one-third of the national budget.

The outlook will be further complicated by the election-year atmosphere, with Republicans striving to keep the Senate control they regained in 1981 on Reagan's electoral coattails after nearly 30 years as the minority party.

With the current line-up of 53 Republicans and 47 Democrats, a shift of only four seats would restore Democratic control.

Despite some successes in 1985, Reagan's foreign policy came under fire, especially on South Africa.



Zionism in crisis

By Professor Lydia Modzhoryan

THE policy of Zionism increasingly reveals two tendencies: a colonialist policy with regard to the Arab peoples and subversive, directed against socialist countries. What is the relationship between them? To answer this question let us take a look at history.

Colonial adventure

The Basel Programme adopted by the first congress of the World Zionist Organisation (WZO) in 1897 formulated the two main aspects of its activity, namely, colonialism and intervention.

The former aspect envisaged the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine which was at the time predominantly populated by Arabs, Jews being a minority. By 1882, when a mass migration of Jews to Palestine began, Jews numbered 24,000 to 450,000 Arabs. Describing this strand in the activity of Zionism, Vladimir Jabotinsky, the founder of Zionist terrorism, wrote with cynical candour that Zionism was a colonial adventure and would stand or fall by its military strength.

The second proclaimed goal of international Zionism was to defend the rights of all Jews irrespective of their citizenship, and to impose on all governments a policy with regard to their Jewish citizens that would be in the interests of Zionism. Jews were thus distinguished from the rest of the populace and removed from the jurisdiction of their respective states. These two points survived all the numerous revisions of the Basel Programme, which was constantly updated. They determine the face of Zionism today.

Ten years ago, on November 10, 1975, the U.N. General Assembly in its resolution 3379 condemned Zionism as a "form of racism and racial discrimination." Chaim Herzog, a Zionist "hawk" who was then Israel's permanent representative at the United Nations, described this resolution as a vicious attack on Israel. He said Zionism was one of the most dynamic and viable national movements in the world.

Herzog, who held high posts in the Israeli armed forces, including chief of staff of the southern command, director of military intelligence, and military governor of the West Bank occupied during the 1967 aggression, is now President of Israel. He ought to know what an aggressive and inhuman movement Zionism is.

The practice of Zionism today shows that it is neither "dynamic" nor "viable," and is currently in a state of deep crisis. The crisis has been constantly aggravated by the fact that the state of Israel was created by colonial methods through suppression of the local population, first with the financial and armed backing of western states (Britain, France and the U.S.),

and subsequently relying on its own overblown armed forces and terrorist organisations.

The "Protocols" trail

This is what Theodor Herzl, the founder of Zionism, promised the colonial powers in exchange for their help in establishing a Jewish state: "For Europe, we shall create, there in Palestine, an outpost against Asia, we shall be the vanguard of the civilised world against barbarism."

Theodor Herzl liked to talk about a "peaceful bazaar." These words sound like blasphemy today. According to official figures, during the aggression against Lebanon Israel lost about 4,000 soldiers.

The country's economy is in a dismal state, with inflation running at over 300 per cent a year, according to the same data, and a foreign debt amounting to \$23 billion. In an attempt to find a way out of these difficulties, the government is delivering blow after blow at the interests of the working people. In early July 1985 it raised prices for petroleum products by 41 per cent; electricity by 53 per cent; water by 82 per cent; postal and telephone services by 40 per cent; eggs, bread and butter by 75 per cent; meat by 45 per cent, and rent by 25 per cent. Recent immigrants have the hardest time of all. Unemployment amongst them runs at 14 per cent, almost three times the national average. The plight of the "eastern Jews" from Asia and Africa is even worse.

While immigration dwindles from year to year, emigration is rising despite the obstacles set by the Israeli government. In 1983, some 15,000 people left the country, and the preliminary figure for 1985 is 30,000. To offset the damage caused to Israel's economy and prestige by the mass exodus of Israelis from the "land of their ancestors" and to settle the occupied West Bank, Zionists launched Operation Moses. Taking advantage of the drought-caused crop failure in Ethiopia, Zionist agents, who infiltrated the country in September 1984, began to encourage Ethiopian Jews (falashas) to flee to Sudan, whence they were to be airlifted to Israel by Belgian planes. Those taken in by Zionist propaganda found themselves marooned in refugee camps in Sudan where many of them died of hunger and epidemics. In January 1985 the New York Times reported that 2,000 falashas had perished. Left behind to die in the camps were the aged and the sick, because the Zionists, true to their usual practice, selected first of all young people to take to Israel. Yet even those who were brought to Israel were herded into "absorption centres" where they were treated as second-rate citizens.

Voices of protest

The economic crisis in Israel is accompanied by a political crisis. Strikes are increasingly frequent and more and more people have become politically active in opposing war and the militarisation of the country.

The political crisis was highlighted during the Knesset election campaign in 1984, when no party managed to gain a sufficient majority to form a government. Inside the ruling Likud and Labour Party coalition there is constant bickering, especially during parliamentary debates on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon, the budget and other issues.

Aggravating the internal crisis is the mounting worldwide condemnation of Zionist practices. Constant acts of aggression against Arab countries have isolated Israel. Socialist and almost all the newly independent countries have severed diplomatic relations with it and condemned its policy at international forums. Mindful of this factor and fearing an oil blockade along the lines of the 1973 Arab oil embargo, West European countries refrain from openly backing Israel and often side with those who call on the U.N. to take resolute measures to curb the aggressor. Only the United States invariably supports Israel, making use of the tensions it has itself created in order to increase its military and political presence in the Middle East.

So, the implementation of the first point of the Basel Programme, far from ensuring the promised happy life, has brought the Israelis to a dead end. Commenting on the existing situation, Arie Eliaz, an objectively-minded Israeli author, writes that if this reactionary period lasts Israel will become a kind of Jewish Quasimodo, a hideous image of deformity.

Face-lift

Under the second and third points of the Basel Programme, Jewish communities were to be set up and united into universal and regional organisations and measures taken to foster national feeling among Jews in the Diaspora. It offered a concept of triple allegiance: to the country of birth, to international Zionism and to the state of Israel, with the last two taking precedence over the first. Under the pretext of "protecting the rights of Jews," Zionist organisations interfere in the internal affairs of states and try to create an extra-territorial status and privileged position for Jews inside the country of their birth, to involve them in their policies and use them for Zionist ends. These ends by no means always coincide with the security interests of the state concerned and often run counter to these interests. This Zionist act-

ivity is subordinate to the interests of the western world's secret services, notably the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

Set up in 1899, the World Jewish Congress (WJC), while not formally a Zionist organisation, actually proceeds from Zionist principles. That common goals are pursued by the WZO and WJC is demonstrated by the fact that Nahum Goldmann, president of WZO, was for 13 years (1955-68) simultaneously president of the WJC. There is, however, a "division of labour" between these two organisations: while the WZO and its Jewish Agency mainly concern themselves with the recruitment of Jews to Israel, their settlement and education in Zionist "ideals," the WJC operates largely amongst the Jews in the Diaspora and its main effort is to brainwash them in the Zionist spirit.

The crisis in Israel has led to differences between the WZO and the WJC. The activity of the WZO, especially Operation Moses, came in for bitter criticism at the meeting of the European groups of the WJC held in Strasbourg from May 16 to 19 1985, and attended by organisations from the U.S. and Canada. The WJC leaders spoke of the need to pursue a more flexible policy and for more active work by all local branches.

Faced with criticism by the WJC, the falling number of new members and discontent of old ones, Leib Dultzin, president of the WZO, has initiated discussions with influential Zionists in the U.S., Israel and some West European countries on changes in the structure of the WZO to make it more flexible and efficient.

Terrorism

Rabbi-cum-terrorist Meir Kahane, who until recently held dual U.S. and Israeli citizenship, is a member of the Israeli Knesset. He founded the Jewish Defence League which attacks Soviet offices in the U.S.

There is no need to continue the list of measures on the Zionist agenda. There should be no place in the modern world for racism and racial discrimination, or for organisations whose ideology and political practice are based on ideas of racial superiority and national exclusiveness. Resolution 3379 was only a first step by the U.N. in the struggle against the subversive activities of international Zionism. Its logical follow-up should be a universal ban on Zionist terrorist organisations and a statement that involvement in them is as much a crime as involvement in all other racist and terrorist organisations whose existence threatens the security of nations, and peace and friendship among peoples — New Times, Soviet Weekly of World Affairs.

Life after 2000: How we'll treat illness

By Barbara S. Moffet
National Geographic

WASHINGTON — It looks like an ordinary microchip, but it may have a life of its own. Someday it could end up inside somebody's brain.

Scientists from the National Institute of Mental Health are growing animal tissue on a silicon chip in hopes that the two eventually will connect and begin to interact. Sometime, probably well into the next century, microchips may be implanted in human brains, where they will link up with undamaged nerve cells and take over functions destroyed by injury or disease.

Other medical scientists are wrestling with an age-old question: Can human life be significantly prolonged?

Researchers on aging say that if cancer and heart ailments magically disappeared, the average lifespan would increase by only about seven years. These scientists are trying to retard the aging process itself, extending the years of robust health toward 100. One theory is that aging is caused by the buildup of metabolism's toxic byproducts and could be slowed by boosting the body's protective enzymes.

Rapidly unlocking secrets

A formula for extended youth may never be found. But by 2000, many of the human body's remaining secrets will have been unlocked. New discoveries are occurring almost daily, especially in molecular biology — the study of the body's functions at the basic genetic level. The advances will make today's medicine look primitive.

Technology, some of it extremely costly to operate, will produce unprecedented tools for diagnosing and treating disease. New

body scanners, especially the magnetic resonance imager, will produce photograph-like pictures that reveal far more than today's CAT scanners, without using radiation.

Tiny pumps implanted in the body will take over for ailing organs, shooting out insulin for a malfunctioning pancreas, for example. Lasers will take over most work now done by scalpels; perhaps even making coronary bypass surgery obsolete.

Robots will work alongside some surgeons. "For certain functions, robots will be more accurate than people, and they'll take care of repetitive tasks too, such as suction and retraction," says Dr. Donald Long, chairman of neurosurgery at the Johns Hopkins University Medical School.

"Teleradiology" will convert future accident victims' X-rays to digits and send them by telephone to specialists for instant analysis. Doctors will turn to computer terminals, not musty reference books, for guidance on symptoms, treatments, and prescriptions. One futurist predicts that within 50 years, many doctors will be replaced by technicians operating well-programmed computers.

Prevention, not treatment

Meanwhile, health specialists say, more physicians will cease being repairmen. By 2000, people may spend as much time and money on prevention of illness as on treatment, and look to changes in lifestyle, not technology, for their well-being.

"We have it within ourselves to control our cardiac destiny," says Dr. Robert I. Levy of Columbia University. He believes that education about smoking and diet, especially cholesterol, will help bring heart disease down as the U.S. nation's number-one cause

of death within 15 to 20 years.

A new generation of drugs will aim at preventing and curing disease rather than treating symptoms. Made more by biologists and computer scientists than chemists, these drugs will be cloned from the body's own genes, hormones, and enzymes and will mimic nature to cure ills. The next century also will see a new wave of vaccines to prevent such illnesses as chickenpox, malaria, and hepatitis — and even tooth decay.

Viruses, which cause a range of illnesses including the common cold, herpes, and AIDS, will remain a challenge. Although researchers recently described for the first time the complex architecture of a human cold virus, they're a long way from developing a vaccine for virus-related diseases.

Areas of medical research with great significance for the future include:

THE BRAIN — "As heart disease and cancer become more treatable, the major health problem over the next 50 years will be degenerative diseases of the brain," says Dr. Richard Jed Wyatt, chief of neuropsychiatry at the National Institute of Mental Health. Some experts expect cases of Alzheimer's disease, a type of dementia, to triple in the next 75 years as the population ages.

But an explosion of research on the brain, one of the last frontiers of medical science, will offer eventual cures for some of today's most feared disorders. For example, a recent discovery that the brain has at least 50 and perhaps hundreds of neurotransmitters — chemicals that direct much of its function — probably will lead to new treatments or cures for Parkinson's disease, epilepsy, schizophrenia, chronic pain, and even Alzheimer's.

The workings of the mind, once thought intangible and invisible, will be traced with new scanners. "We're in the process of demystifying the brain. By the year 2000 we may know exactly what is happening, say, in my brain while I'm talking to you," says Dr. Katherine Bick, deputy director of the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke.

Future drugs will literally refresh our memories. "Using certain drugs, we now can make animals remember better, and I believe that before long, we'll help humans with memory problems," forecasts Dr. James L. McGaugh, director of the Centre for the Neurobiology of Learning at the University of California, Irvine. Several U.S. drug manufacturers already are researching these "cognitive enhancers."

One of the most ambitious areas of brain research is an effort to make a damaged brain "whole" through special surgery. Wyatt has found that rats suffering symptoms of Parkinson's disease — a deficiency of a neurotransmitter that affects 500,000 Americans — can recover if affected brain tissue is surgically replaced by new cells. If the process works in rhesus monkeys, Wyatt believes, it eventually should work in humans. One scientist predicts that such transplants will be routine for some brain diseases by 2000 if ethical questions are resolved.

GENETICS — Gene by gene, scientists are mapping the human body. The number of identified genes is roughly doubling every two years, and although the rate will slow, many of the significant

ones will have been located by the turn of the century. Last year, for example, scientists found the gene that corresponds to the fatal Huntington's disease.

About 3,500 illnesses have been linked to genetic defects, including many forms of mental retardation, and future scientists for the first time may be able to treat them. Beyond that, genetic mapping will help explain a broad range of biological functions, such as the process that causes chromosomes to rearrange themselves and trigger cancer, says one of the mappers, Dr. Frank Ruddle of Yale University.

Although ethical questions loom, the new knowledge should yield advances for future health care, among them genetic vaccines and drugs, prenatal screening, and early warnings of predisposition to certain adult diseases, even those caused by a combination of hereditary traits.

"Now, for instance, we have to tell the whole population to cut down on fats," says Dr. Arno G. Motulsky, director of the Centre for Inherited Diseases at the University of Washington, Seattle. "When we can detect genetic predisposition to heart disease, we'll be able to target those people at risk, and the rest may be able to eat as much fat as they want."

Many future prescription drugs will be genetically based, creations of a "gene machine." Now able to make a small gene in less than a day, the device can recreate genes already in existence or synthesize genes unknown to nature, says Dr. Leroy E. Hood of the California Institute of Technology.

If current animal studies succeed, 21st-century doctors likely will practice "gene therapy," inserting normal genes to correct mistakes in patients' genetic makeup. In the next year or two, the first trial of human gene therapy will be conducted on ADA deficiency, a life-threatening enzyme shortage.

"If gene therapy works with ADA, any hereditary disease could theoretically be treated with gene therapy," says Dr. W. French Anderson, chief of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's molecular hematology laboratory. Eventually the treatment could be simple: "A visiting nurse could cure sickle-cell anemia in a population with injections into the bloodstream," Anderson says. Like tuberculosis and polio, most genetic disorders could be virtually banished.

Ethical concerns envelop gene therapy, especially the question of using it to change future offspring and "enhancement gene engineering" — insertion of a gene to improve a trait such as intelligence. But such tampering is unlikely, even in the distant future. "Personality and intelligence are the products of dozens of genes, along with environmental influences," Anderson says. "Changing them is just too complicated."

CANCER — This complex disease will continue to kill and cripple us in the next century, but it will be more curable. The National Cancer Institute foresees that if current research strategies succeed, cure rates should rise to an average of 75 per cent by the year 2000, up from about 50 per cent today.

Research is progressing in dozens of directions. Scientists now know that some cancers are triggered by oncogenes, normal genes that turn malignant. They're

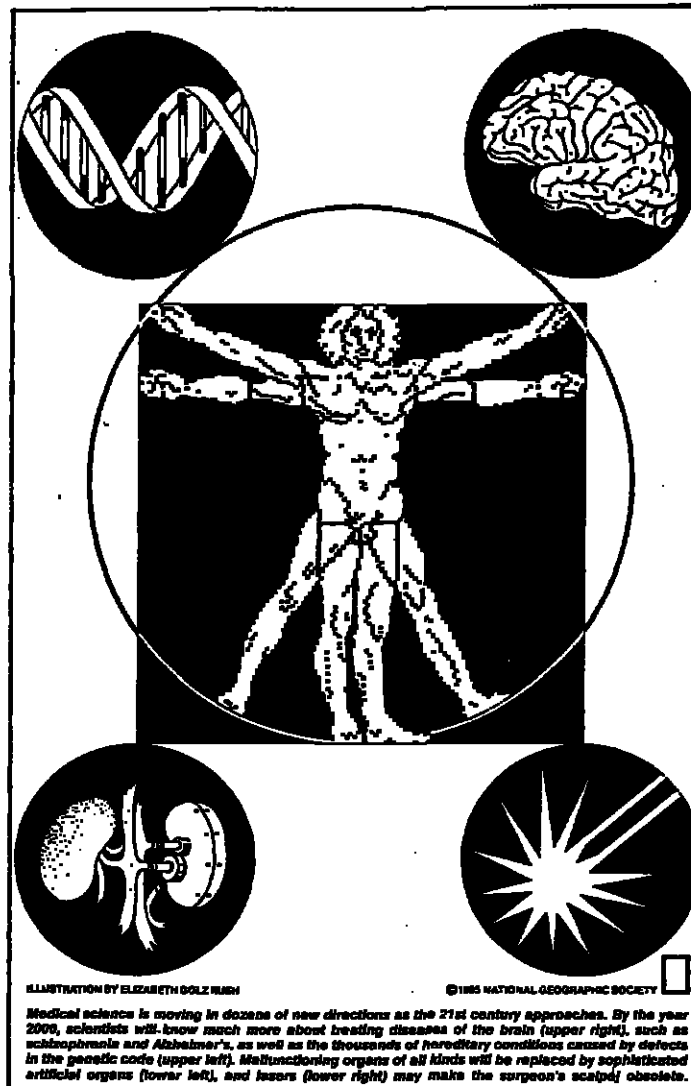


ILLUSTRATION BY FLORENCE DOLZ/BRUNN

Medical science is moving in dozens of new directions as the 21st century approaches. By the year 2000, scientists will know much more about breeding diseases of the brain (upper right), such as schizophrenia and Alzheimer's, as well as the thousands of hereditary conditions caused by defects in the genetic code (upper left). Multifunctioning organs of all kinds will be replaced by sophisticated artificial organs (lower left), and lasers (lower right) may make the surgeon's scalpel obsolete.

starting to attack cancer with cells called monoclonal antibodies; these single-purpose molecules, armed with radioactive isotopes or drugs, can seek out and destroy a tumor.

Other pioneer treatments seek to exploit the body's natural defenses against malignancies. Research on immune substances known as tumor necrosis factor, which destroys cancerous cells while leaving normal cells intact, may lead to radical new approaches to cancer therapy.

Combinations of surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy, commonly used today, will continue to be staples of future cancer treatment, the specialists say, but they will be more refined and humane. "One of the main advances over the next 15 years will be a better way to determine who will respond to chemotherapy and who won't," predicts Dr. Bruce A. Chabner of the National Cancer Institute.

By 2000, some cancers, especially breast and ovarian cancers, should be highly curable, but lung cancer will remain a major killer. And the AIDS virus, which can lead to malignancies, is a worrisome question mark in future

cancer rates. Chabner says. "We'll go about controlling cancer one disease at a time," he says. But there probably will be no general cure.

ARTIFICIAL ORGANS — Like a repaired car, the human body of 2000 will be made up of replaceable parts. "There is no organ which won't be replaced in the future," says Dr. Pierre Galletti, who has developed artificial organs at Brown University.

Parts that will commonly be replaced in the future include heart, lungs, kidney, pancreas, blood vessels, ears, and maybe eyes. Eventually, Galletti says, man-made parts will replace the liver and even sections of the brain and nervous system.

Tomorrow's artificial organs will be made of more sophisticated materials than today's. "Bio-artificial organs," hybrids of natural transplants and artificial parts, may help stop tissue rejection by encapsulating donor material in plastic. Mainly because of a donor shortage, natural heart transplants will wane, says Dr. Willem J. Kolff of the University of Utah. Soon after 2000, he believes, thousands of people will live with miniaturized artificial hearts.

Soviets debate the role of women

By Helen Womack
Reuters

MOSCOW — The role of women in the Soviet Union, which sent the first female astronaut into space and has for years boasted of complete sexual equality, has become the subject of an unusually open public debate.

The issue is crucial to the nation's future, in the view of many Soviet and Western sociologists. For once the official media is not advocating a single line of thought, but posing questions for consideration.

For the all-male top Communist Party leadership, the problem is that women workers are needed to help carry out Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev's plan for revitalizing the economy at the same time as they are required as mothers to counteract falling European birthrates.

Soviet women, almost all of whom have jobs, have widely differing views.

But on one matter they seem unanimous: That it is hard to work all day and then queue for food, cook and care for the house and children all evening without much help from their still largely conservative-minded men.

After decades of claiming that the sexes were equal, the Soviet Union now says officially that equality, like Socialism itself, is not completely developed.

Women here hold down professions such as engineering which in the West are dominated by men. A sight which never fails to surprise Westerners is that of women doing hard manual labour on the roads and railways.

In 1963, the Soviet Union became the first country to send a woman, Valentina Tereshkova, into space. She is now head of the Soviet Women's Committee.

But there are few women at the very top. As for Soviet men, who still show old world courtesies to women, many seem to expect their wives to be feminine in a traditional way.

The attitude was expressed recently by a man who wrote anonymously to the daily Sovetskaya Rossiya, saying he thought women should first be good wives, secondly good mothers and only thirdly good workers.

He complained that his wife worked long hours in a high-flying career as a factory manager and even brought work home with her. "With all that, what can she do for her house, children and husband?" he asked.

A recent article in the literary and sociological weekly Literaturnaya Gazeta lamented the behaviour of teenage girls who hung around bars.

In line with a recent campaign by Gorbachev against alcohol abuse, the article mainly aimed criticism at young girls' drinking habits, but ended with the following call for a return to femininity.

"To persuade men to perform gallant acts in honour of beautiful women, you must first have beautiful women and not 'chicks' and 'dollybirds'."

Another item, in the Moscow youth paper Moskovsky Komсомолец, described how a schoolgirl had to be taken to hospital after a fight with other girls. Fights between boys are not normally reported on.

An article in late November in the national youth daily Komсомольская Pravda posed the question of the role of women more subtly under the headline: "How to balance the interests of family and production?"

It also seemed to favour a return to more traditional sexual patterns, saying women had been encouraged to think that caring for a husband and family was a trivial, petty bourgeois ideal.

"A woman on a tractor, a woman parachuting, a woman in an underground shaft — these were the images on which whole generations were brought up."

"But (for a woman) the desire to be useful to society might be realised under the roof of her own home, through her family and children," it concluded.

A new film which has just opened in Moscow, however, seems to make the rare case in this country for a Western-style, individualistic feminism.

"Winter Cherries" directed by Igor Maslennikov tells the story of a woman alone with a young child. She loves a married man who will not leave his wife to settle with her.

She comes close to marrying another man, but the match is sabotaged by the first man, who is still unwilling to marry her. All around she sees her women friends being abused by men. She concludes that she cannot depend on men and must be independent.

Men and women leaving the cinema said they enjoyed the film. A middle-aged woman commented that Soviet boys had been spoilt and grown up into spoilt men, but added that attitudes among the young of both sexes were changing.



The brain, like any other organ, shows up in minute detail when scanned by a magnetic resonance imager (background). On the screen, early signs of multiple sclerosis may show up in the brain before the patient has symptoms. Doctors look to the scanner as a key future tool for charting disease.

Falcons are the patients at Dubai's unique hospital

By Philip Shehadi
Reuters

DUBAI — The patient inhales anaesthetic. Wires are fixed on his chest to monitor his heartbeat. The surgeon calls for scalpel and forceps. The operation begins.

On the table is a young peregrine falcon suffering from humpback, an infection that could paralyse his claws if left untreated. His owner, a sheikh from Dubai's ruling Al Maktoum family, hopes surgery will cure the bird in time for one more hunt this season.

The Dubai Falcon Hospital, said to be the only one in the world, expects to treat more than 500 falcons this year with ailments ranging from lead poisoning to tapeworm and herpes.

Falconry is a traditional passion of the bedouin Arab and the lure of the hunt does not appear to have faded with rapid modernisation seen by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and other oil-rich Arabian peninsula states.

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the UAE Defence Minister, owns around 100 birds while his brother Sheikh Hamdan, the Finance Minister, has at least 30.

Three years ago, Sheikh Hamdan set up a private clinic for the Al Maktoum birds during the winter hunting season. The hospital is now staffed full-time and open to all, with falcons checking in from the neighbouring emirate of Abu Dhabi and from as far away as Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar.

"This little hospital tends to fill up pretty fast," said David Rempie, the Colorado-born veterinary surgeon who runs it with his wife

Cheryl. On a busy day, the waiting room is lined with sick birds, hooded and silent on their cloth perches. One may have symptoms of lead poisoning — convulsions, anaemia, loss of appetite and voice. He will need blood treatment and surgery.

Another may have a parasite, needing antibiotics, or a more cosmetic complaint such as a broken feather. Among the worst diseases is aspergillosis, a fungus that eats away lungs and air sacs and requires frequent medication, inhalation therapy and delicate surgery. The survival rate is only five per cent.

Rempie said the clinic initially met some skepticism among falconers used to traditional bedouin healing. "It's amazing how well it's caught on. The bedouins were very stand-offish at first about any Western medicine but word has gotten around and they're very

cooperative now, they come in regularly."

In the desert, bedouin used to brand their sick birds with red-hot irons to stamp out infections. For eye ulcers, they administered a mixture of saliva and sugar.

Now, Rempie said, falconers bring in stool samples of their favourite birds even when they appear perfectly healthy, just for a check.

Rempie said the hospital made good economic sense. "With the prices paid for these falcons, if you can save even one fourth of them, you can save hundreds of thousands of dollars in the course of a season... The hospital more than pays for itself."

Falcons are selling this year for an average \$5,000 each. But tight supply in the main countries of origin — Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Syria — can boost the cost of a prized female saker to more than \$10,000. Up to

\$250,000 is not unheard of for particularly rare birds.

The Al Maktoums' birds account for about 80 per cent of hospital business. Others pay 30 dirhams (\$8) a day for care, in addition to medical charges. The falcons stay in small rooms, at most two to a room, and eat only fresh quail.

A hunting trip in Pakistan or Iran (there is little game left in the UAE) is a highlight in the recreational life of many UAE citizens.

Birds are usually bought in autumn and many owners release them in the spring when hunting is over, a carryover from days when lack of air conditioning and proper food in the summer made it hard to keep them. Training takes around two weeks.

An active falconer may take two or three hunting trips a year, each for a few weeks duration, Rempie said.

Arab falconry tradition survives

THE dusty market town of Rahab, west of Damascus, where falcon dealers display and sell their birds was the subject of a recent Philadelphia inquirer article by Tom Masland.

"Falconry is a passion for the Bedouin hunter, so now it is emblematic of a vanished lifestyle," Masland says. He described the enduring Arab love of falconry through interviews with falconers and western experts on the sport during a visit this fall.

According to Masland, Rahab is the "Mid-east's clearinghouse" for hawks. He re-

ports that some traders bring their birds directly to the clients, and Bedouin falconers in white robes with birds on their gloved wrists sometimes mingle in the hotel lobbies with Lebanese politicians, American oilmen and tourists.

The spirited saker hawk — "nearly white, or so brown as to appear black" — is the preferred species of hawk. Masland says. When trapped on their first migration south from the nesting region between Europe and central Asia, the birds bring about \$15,000 each. The birds are becoming harder to catch, local tra-

ppers say, and their scarcity, coupled with oil wealth and western companies seeking the prize hawks to present as gifts in the Gulf, have driven up prices.

It takes several weeks to train hawk to hunt, and a two-year-old hawk trapped for the second time is used to help train the younger birds to kill the much larger bustard, a swift-flying desert chicken.

"It is beautiful to watch when the two are fighting in the sky," Masland quoted one hunter as saying. "It is like an old-fashioned duel."

Sweden may amend constitution to crack down on pornography

By Richard Murphy
Reuters

STOCKHOLM — Sweden, which became a synonym for sexual permissiveness in the 1960s and 1970s, is cracking down on pornography and may amend its constitution to ban it.

Liberals who once campaigned against censorship in the name of sexual freedom are now demanding that controls be reimposed on the grounds that pornography is dangerous and degrading.

"We had hoped that liberalisation would lead to the open and honest portrayal of all aspects of sexuality," Hans Nestius, chairman of the Swedish Sex Education Association, told Reuters.

"Instead, the sex capitalists moved in and what we got was pornography which was cold, mechanical, violent and degrading."

The association, a consistent advocate of greater sexual freedom since it was set up in 1933, has for several years led a campaign against pornography, now beginning to bear fruit in the form of tougher laws.

An existing ban on excessively violent films and videos will be extended to cover portrayals of sexual violence from the start of 1986. Live sex shows were banned in 1982.

The government expects to put draft legislation before parliament next year to outlaw violent pornography in books and magazines.

Such a ban would require an amendment to the freedom of the press act, one of the four basic laws which make up the Swedish constitution, and would have to be passed by two successive parliaments with an election in between.

"I believe we will get a parliamentary majority in favour of banning violent pornography in printed form," Margareta Persson, member of parliament for the ruling Social Democratic Party, told Reuters.

At the last Social Democratic Party congress in 1984, members defied the party executive and voted for the introduction of censorship of video films. The issue is now being examined by a government working group.

Nestius admitted that seeking restrictions ran counter to his liberal instincts. But he said: "If people really knew what's on sale in sex shops nowadays there would be a storm of protest."

Pornography has become a multi-million-dollar industry in Sweden since a law restricting it was repealed in 1971. Nestius played a prominent part in getting rid of the old law.

Exact figures are hard to come by but Nestius estimates that up to half a million hard-core pornographic magazines are sold every month in Sweden, which has a population of 8.3 million.

These magazines mostly depict violence and sadism, rape, bondage and acts involving animals and children. Child pornography is already outlawed but still has a limited underground circulation.

The traditionally "softer" men's magazines, available at virtually all newspaper stands, have become more explicit in recent years and sales in Sweden totalled 13.6 million in 1984.

However, the main growth sector has been the video market. A film and video industry newspaper said that one in four videotapes hired by the public in 1983 was pornographic. One Stockholm sex shop stocks no fewer than 6,000 video titles.

An organisation called "people's action against pornography" was set up earlier this year to bring together women's groups, political parties and Nestius's sex education association.

It defines pornography as material portraying "a fragmented sexuality, which has been broken away from its natural context and is depicted in a way which is degrading for one of the parties or where suffering is inflicted on one

of them."

Nestius, now in his 40s, is anxious to dispel any idea that his is a classic case of youthful liberal turned middle-aged conservative and denies he is trying to turn the clock back.

"We are in favour of all depictions of human sexuality, from the mildly sensual to the wildly orgiastic," he says. "But we oppose the portrayal of women as objects to be used by men and the separation of the physical and the emotional side of sex."

Margareta Persson, an advocate of video censorship, agrees. "I absolutely do not want to ban erotic pictures, but if there is a significant element of humiliation or degradation, then it should be stopped," she said.

Nestius has tried to beat the pornographers at their own game by publishing a book of explicit, erotic but non-pornographic pictures.

These depict couples engaging in a wide variety of sexual activities but are intended to suggest closeness and tenderness rather than domination and the fixation with sexual organs which Nestius says characterize pornography.

"Our slogan should not just be 'death to pornography' but also 'long live the erotic picture,'" he says.

Istanbul mayor plans to rectify urban neglect

By Ragip Erten
Reuters

ISTANBUL — Years of neglect have taken their toll on this metropolis astride the Bosphorus, where traffic jams, pollution, water shortages and lack of sewers make daily life a struggle for many of its 5.5 million people.

Now, mayor Bedrettin Dalan plans to improve conditions in Istanbul, where the population has expanded more than five-fold in 35 years amid unchecked industrialisation and urbanisation.

For tourists, Turkey's commercial, cultural and financial centre loses its charm on close inspection as a minaret-filled skyline gives way to polluted and traffic-clogged streets.

"What we first need is a thorough planning of the city. This, I hope will be finished by the end of

1986," Dalan said.

He aims to ease traffic congestion and make better use of the Bosphorus, the narrow strait dividing the Asian and European parts of the city used daily to ferry at least 300,000 people.

Roads, especially in central areas, are inadequate for the growing number of vehicles and parking is difficult. The absence of a subway system adds to the problem.

Dalan told Reuters that building a subway "is beyond the means of the municipality," but said the city planned to have trams in the European area for the first time since the 1960s.

A master-plan for inner city traffic flow will be ready in 18 months, while the municipality is buying more buses to boost a 1,500-strong fleet. The options for crossing the

Bosphorus are riding packed, ageing and slow ferries or using a suspension toll-bridge which can take up to an hour to cross in rush hours.

"The present ferries are slow and unwieldy and the terminals are squalid. We will invest in small, fast boats to carry people to different parts of the city," Dalan said.

At present, there are interchange points either side of the Golden Horn, a finger off the Bosphorus cutting into the European side of the city and near major business areas.

To the west, where the Topkapi Palace and Aya Sofya church are located, cars inch down narrow alleys and trucks block streets.

In the busy clothing trade area by the covered bazaar, many firms have abandoned road transport and use delivery men bent double

under packages on their backs. "Every day 2.4 million people enter this small area. Think what effect it has on the traffic and other city services," Dalan said.

He has already cleared a shabby area along the Golden Horn, with the aim of moving businesses from the centre and opening the waterway to the public.

The Golden Horn, once a playground for sultans, effectively is an open sewer and only children dare to swim in it.

Work is now in progress on Istanbul's first sewerage system along 110 km of shoreline which will treat effluent and pump it into deepwater currents.

Air pollution is a new problem, with vehicle exhaust and ships' smoke adding to the odour of industrial waste and high sulphur lignite burned in homes.

Rematch refusal may cost Kasparov his chess title

ZURICH (Agencies) — World Chess Champion Garry Kasparov would forfeit his title to Anatoly Karpov if he refused to meet the former champion for a rematch, an official of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) said Sunday.

FIDE Secretary-General Lim Kok Ann told Reuters from his home in Lucerne that the rules were clear.

"If either of the players refuses to play a scheduled match, it is automatic that the other person becomes world champion," he said.

In an interview published on Friday by the Soviet News Agency TASS, Kasparov called the idea of a rematch "nonsense."

The Soviet national criticised the rules that require him to meet Karpov again, starting on Feb. 10, only three months after wresting the title from his countryman in a 24-game match in Moscow.

Kasparov, at 22 the youngest title holder, also attacked FIDE President Florencio Campomanes

of the Philippines and urged his replacement.

Lim said Kasparov had until Jan. 6 to notify FIDE if he would play and whether he preferred London or Leningrad, the two bidders, as site for the rematch.

"He can change his mind any time until Jan. 6," Lim said.

Kasparov's attack on FIDE rules and on Campomanes is the latest wrangling between some of the world's top chess players and the federation, which gives the president broad discretion in arranging matches and interpreting the rules.

Campomanes and Kasparov clashed early this year when the president suspended a world championship contest between Karpov and Kasparov. Karpov, while

leading, appeared to falter after their match had already reached a record 48 games without either player having won the required six victories.

To prevent another such marathon championship match, Campomanes pushed through new rules limiting the matches to 24 games, allowing the holder to retain his title in case of a tie and requiring an early rematch if the champion lost.

In his interview with TASS on Friday, Kasparov said the changes gave the champion two clear advantages, "the very advantages that were abolished some 20-odd years ago and to which no return has been made."

Karpov, 34, who had held the title since 1975, told a Soviet newspaper Sunday that he wanted the rematch to be staged in Leningrad. Leningrad's one-million-Swiss-franc (\$480,000) prize money falls far short of the 1.8 million francs (\$865,000) offered by organisers in London.

Karpov told the newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya he had sent a message to Campomanes, saying he favoured Leningrad for the new series rather than London, the other proposed venue.

Kasparov, who heads a movement of world chess players seeking the removal of Campomanes from his post, beat Karpov by 13 games to 11 in a 24-game series that ended last month.

Karpov, who lost the world chess title he held for 10 years, said the next world championship series would be delayed until 1987 because of a busy world chess schedule next year. Karpov did not say in his response to a letter how he had learned that the world title series set for the end of 1986 would be postponed.

Such a decision would have to be taken by FIDE. No official announcement of a postponement has been made yet by the organisation.

China beats Indonesia in Asian basketball games

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Defending champions China trounced Indonesia 138-31 in a Group A match in their first outing of the 13th Asian Basketball Championships Sunday.

The taller Chinese surrendered

the first point of the match but were quickly into their stride and led 58-14 at halftime.

After the break, they piled on the agony.

Jordan lost 70-81 in the Group B match with the Philippines.

Six athletes favoured to win Brazilian footrace

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — An American, Italian, West German, Colombian, Belgian and Brazilian are being cited as the athletes with the best chances of winning the 61st St. Silvester Footrace that will be held on New Year's Eve in

South America's largest city. Close to 8,000 athletes — men and women — from 19 countries signed up to run the 12.6 kilometre race that starts at 11:05 p.m. (0105 GMT Jan. 1) and ends shortly before midnight.

Canter wins 1st Grand Prix tennis title

MELBOURNE (R) — American Jonathan Canter clinched his first Grand Prix singles title when he defeated Australia's Peter Doohan 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 in the final of the \$75,000 Victorian Open Tennis Championships.

Canter, 20, son of a Hollywood movie producer, played the starring role in a come-from-behind victory and won \$16,000 while Doohan took \$8,000.

Doohan began sharply and scored the first break in the opening set to lead 5-4 with a finely angled cross-court forehand volley.

Canter, however, steadied to break back with his third winning lob and is-elled at 5-5.

Undaunted Doohan broke again in the following game and held on to his serve to take the set 7-5.

The American captured the only service break in the second set to lead 5-3 and levelled the sets score after taking the set 6-3.

Canter's victory completed a dismal year for Australians on the international circuit. It is the first time in recent memory that no Australian has been able to win a Grand Prix tournament.

Doohan, also a finalist in the South Australian Open last week, confessed that he "choked" both times.

"It's something psychological. I play good tennis leading up to the finals and then I choke — I've choked badly the last two weeks," Doohan said.

Canter's win also represents an important breakthrough for the American.

"It reinforces the fact that I feel I can play any of the top players. It definitely gives me a lot of confidence going into 1986, especially getting out of a pressure situation like that," he said.

Zamalek holds National to 2-2 draw

CAIRO (R) — Zamalek, down by two goals at the interval, made a spectacular comeback to hold champions National to a 2-2 draw in an Egyptian First Division match Sunday.

The clash between the two Cairo teams, broadcast live, drew a crowd of some 70,000 to the international stadium and emptied the capital's usually bustling streets with millions glued to television and radio sets.

The result left National on top of the 12-team table, one point ahead of arch-rivals Zamalek with one match in hand — against Alexandria's bottom-of-the-table Itihad.

National, who won the African Cup-Winners' Cup this month for

the second year in a row, opened the score early in the first half when Zakaria Nassef drove from inside the box.

Striker Mahmoud Al Khateib stretched the hosts' lead just before the interval from a penalty awarded when midfielder Alaa Mahoub was hauled down just inside the penalty area.

Zamalek regained the initiative in the second half, pulling one back in the 75th minute through striker Tareq Yehia, who also provided the equaliser five minutes later when he swung over a cross which midfielder Mohamamd Helmi headed home.

Matches between the two sides have been something of a local derby since competitive football

began in Egypt more than 50 years ago.

Tight security kept crowd violence Sunday to brief outbreaks of stone-throwing.

The referee was Italian, in keeping with a custom of flying European referees to officiate at key matches for fear of bias by local referees.

Sunday's atmosphere turned sour five minutes from time when National's Mahoub and Zamalek's Ahmad Ramzi were sent off for an off-ball brawl.

Two yellow cards were shown earlier and Zamalek goalkeeper Adel Al Maamour bowed out injured after a dive at the feet of National's Alaa Abdul Sadek early in the match.

Australian yacht wins Sydney-Hobart classic

HOBART, Tasmania (R) — Australian yacht Apollo Sunday avenged a narrow defeat by Condor of Bermuda in the 1982 event by taking line honours in the 1985 Sydney-Hobart yachting classic.

Apollo, a Sydney maxi skippered by Warwick Rooklyn, crossed the line on the Derwent River Sunday afternoon three days four hours 32 minutes and 28 seconds after the start on Sydney Harbour on Dec. 26.

Another Sydney maxi, Windward Passage, skippered by Rod Muir, finished second three hours after Apollo.

But late Sunday night the next yacht, Syd Fischer's maxi Ragamuffin, was reportedly becalmed off Sandy Bay, a few miles from the finish line.

In 10th position at that stage was Australian yacht Sagacious, which on corrected time was miles ahead of the fleet, followed by Drake's Prayer and Thunderbird. Paladin was fourth, followed by Britain's first Southern Cross Cup boat Highland Fling.

In the Southern Cross Cup series in this final and deciding race, Britain were staving off a determined New Zealand challenge, despite the loss of its top boat

Panda with structural damage two days ago.

Britain had 2291.70 points, with Highland Fling fifth on corrected time and Cifraline 3 eighth.

Panda will receive points for starting, but the contest will be wide open until all Southern Cross Cup teams finish Monday.

New Zealand B were second on 2119.54 points with Thunderbird third on Handicap, Mad Max 13th and Barna Storm 110th. New South Wales were third on 1953.59 points, led by Sagacious.

For Rooklyn and his father Jack, the owner of Apollo, their victory atoned for the heartbreak of 1982, when their boat was beaten to the line by just seven seconds.

Apollo's victory went entirely to plan. She was first out of Sydney Heads, first to round Tasman Island and first across the line. Her main rivals, Windward Passage and Ragamuffin, were some 3½ hours astern at the finish.

It was Warwick Rooklyn's first win in the big race, after five second places in 11 starts.

After a wild ride down Australia's east coast and across Bass Strait, Apollo had slowed to three knots soon after rounding Tasman

Island early on Sunday, making her way slowly across Storm Bay towards the mouth of the Derwent.

"We were a bit nervous then, but we'd already made our break on the others and I knew the sea breeze would come in eventually," Warwick Rooklyn said Sunday.

"While we were pretty confident, we never relaxed on the job. We just kept on going because we were on light airs for a while and we weren't sure what they had outside."

"We just kept working at it and the realisation that we had the wind didn't really come until we were in the river," he said.

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Leading U.S. commodities markets offer new product to attract investors

CHICAGO (R) — The newest money game in town has pitched Chicago's leading commodities markets into battle in the most elaborately publicized and costly rivalry between two such financial institutions in history.

The battle, which started with opening day parties and an airplane trailing a campaign slogan over an American football game, is being fought between the Chicago Board of Trade (CBT) and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME).

Between them, they have spent a reported \$6 million to attract investors to their new over-the-counter (OTC) stock index futures contracts, which both introduced on last month.

Stock index futures contracts are the latest development on the exchanges, which began life in the last century offering farmers and food merchants a forum to smooth out their accounts by trading their goods at a fixed price for a future date.

Farm goods are still dealt today but trading volume in these commodities has waned while exchanges have introduced new contracts ranging from oil and bonds to currencies and stocks.

The contracts offer speculators, who often have no use for the commodity they are trading in, the chance to make fast fortunes by correctly spotting future price trends.

To outsiders, it may sound like gambling, and very often it is.

For example, with a deposit of as little as \$3,500, investors can trade one of the new OTC stock index futures contracts, now worth between \$75,000 and \$90,000 per contract.

The deposit allows them to bet on whether the basket of stocks included in that particular index will rise or fall. If they choose right, they stand to make a substantial sum. If wrong, they can, and sometimes do, lose everything.

The CBT is trying to win investors with its Nasdaq-100 contract which tracks 100 non-financial issues on the OTC, the fast-growing market on which shares are dealt directly between brokers' offices rather than on a traditional stock exchange floor.

The CME's OTC-250 index, dubbed SPOC, comprises 250 domestic industrial stocks quoted on the OTC.

Both have some powerful household names in their index. The CBT's index boasts Apple Computers while Nike running shoes is one of the 250 shares in the CME's contract.

Analysts say it is too early to tell whether either contract will succeed. Sustained and expanding volume is required and the CBT's contract has led from the start with an average of 6,200 contracts traded daily compared with 4,100 for the CME contract.

Both exchanges have pushed hard to get traders from other commodities pits — the sunken

trading pits where contracts are traded amid a chaos of screaming, pushing and shoving — to spend at least 15 minutes a day with their colleagues in the stock index pit.

This helps provide the essential contract volume which allows participants to trade when they want to at the lowest cost.

"Traders would like to support the contract, but a lot of them lost as much as \$20,000 the first two days because the market for it was so thin," said Mr. David Harris, a trader in the sparsely-populated Nasdaq-100 stock index futures pit.

Most of the volume in the two new contracts still comes from floor traders and brokerage firms, with only about one-fifth of the volume coming from public investors, exchange sources said.

Clearly missing from the new contracts is active use by the public and large institutional investors such as pension funds. Both are crucial for contract success, analysts and traders say.

But the pool from which to draw is small. A CBT spokesman said only 200,000 people who are not exchange members trade in U.S. markets.

While the Chicago exchange rivalry may be most in the public eye now, other exchanges are developing new contracts and are just as determined to carve out their niche.

New York's Commodity Exchange (Comex), which trades metals futures, said it is considering branching out into financial contracts and is planning a link-up with the Sydney Futures Exchange in Australia on gold futures.

Over the past five years, New York's four futures exchanges have successfully forced Chicago out of markets by having an established contract with dependable volume. Among the contracts that failed in Chicago were gold, energy and metals.

Recession in Middle East badly hits Turkish construction firms

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish construction firms have been badly hit by a recession in the Middle East brought on by lower oil income and are pessimistic on prospects for new contracts in coming years, industry sources say.

Construction contracts won by Turkish companies plummeted to just \$212 million in the first eight months of 1985, from \$14.8 billion in 1984, according to Turkish Contractors Association figures. Until this year new contracts had been rising steadily — the figure was \$3.5 billion in 1980.

"There will hardly be any big contracts in the next two or three years in the Middle East because of falling oil revenues," said Mr. Kamuran Gurun, board member of construction contractor Sezi Turkmen Fevzi Akkaya Insaat (STFA).

"There is a stiff competition between Far East, European and Turkish companies for existing

Libya, said to owe Turkish contractors over \$400 million, is settling its debts in oil supplies, and industry sources say problems have begun to surface on payments for projects in Saudi Arabia.

The industry is pinning much of its hopes for the future on an end to the five-year-old Iran-Iraq war, which has caused widespread devastation in the two countries, both of which share borders with Turkey.

"When the war ends there will be a great deal of construction in these countries," Mr. Gurun said, adding he hoped much of the business would go to Turkish firms, which have been active in Iran and Iraq throughout the war.

STFA is building three small harbours in Iran and ENKA hopes to win a contract for a dam in northern Iraq.

Construction industry sources said the relatively high productivity and low pay of Turkish workers are a major factor in the competitiveness of Turkish contractors.

There are a total of 230 Turkish construction firms, many of them small firms involved in subcontracting work, doing business abroad, mainly in the Middle East.

The drop in foreign business has also meant major companies have also been competing more actively for big domestic orders, such as the second Bosphorus bridge in Istanbul, won by STFA with Japanese and Italian partners.

ENKA is building two power plants in Turkey and will also bid for major domestic highway projects, company officials say.

Saudi Arabia ventures OPEC into new territory

LONDON — The retreat in mid-December by Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) from its ambition to be a price-fixing cartel is likely to prove one of those historic turning points, formalising a major shift in the rules of the oil game.

The Geneva meeting of the 13 oil producers, almost on OPEC's 25th anniversary, may have lacked the high drama surrounding the price explosions of 1973 and 1979 — it came, after all, after gradual four-year erosion of OPEC's power over the industrial world. But the reversal of the cartel's fortunes has, for all that, been one of the more remarkable demonstrations of the power of market forces in the post-war period.

OPEC's oil revenues have fallen back in real terms to the level of the mid-1970s, while its share of a declining non-communist world market has tumbled fast — from 50 per cent in 1974 to only 33 per cent last year. The recovery to about 40 per cent in 1985 has been accomplished only by extensive price cutting, particularly by Saudi Arabia.

Oil has proved not to be such an irreplaceable commodity for the industrial world as was assumed in the 1970s. As one analyst said: "The price mechanism worked." It pushed productive capacity of all-time records while substitutes and economies have reduced consumption.

The significance of the recent OPEC meeting in Geneva is that for the first time since the cartel was formed it accepted the consequence of these changes: That prices must fall.

The immediate reaction was an unprecedented fall in oil prices, with North Sea crude offered at below \$24 for February delivery, and severe pressure on sterling in the foreign exchange markets. This reaction was amplified by the coincidental timing of the OPEC meeting, which came just as spot oil prices started to fall after a period of apparent firmness in demand.

Even before the meeting, the industry was in a state of rare consensus that prices would be significantly lower in the spring and that the underlying trend of the market will be weak for at least two years and perhaps longer.

The recent factors which bolstered the price since 1984 — the U.K. miners' strike, the bombing of Kharg Island in the Gulf and reduced supplies from the Soviet Union — are all seen as obscuring a continued downward trend.

The general view is that prices might fall to as low as \$20 per barrel by early 1986, if OPEC maintains its output at the current level of about 18 million b/d, when seasonal demand starts to weaken. However, the uncertainties are huge, because in a free market there is no obvious economic floor to the price above the marginal operating costs for existing wells. For most OPEC oil this is only a few dollars per barrel, and even in the North Sea it would generally be less than \$10.

In the absence of a catastrophic fall, therefore, prices will have little direct effect on restraining supply. Similarly, it is doubtful whether a moderate fall in price would encourage much extra use of oil. The capital investment in conservation has been so enormous that the trends of the last decade cannot easily be put into reverse.

Studies by the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development suggest a sluggish reaction of demand to prices. This analysis also implies that it still would be in the economic interest of all oil producers to boost the price by restricting supply. But this is only theory. The recent history of OPEC shows that it has been almost impossible to find a way of preventing individual producers from cheating by boosting output at a discounted price.

Political poker game

So, although market forces may

have seriously weakened OPEC, it does not follow that they have taken over as the only or even the main influences over the oil price. This, essentially, is the dilemma which now faces OPEC — and indeed all oil producers.

OPEC is engaged in a multi-billion pound political poker game in which each producer is trying to bluff the other players into a concession of some of its potential revenue, and at the same time to draw as many non-members as possible into the circle.

Saudi Arabia moved at the Geneva meeting quite explicitly from its leadership over world oil prices to a new role as a player in this game, albeit the one with far the strongest hand.

The refusal of Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, to take the chair of OPEC's new planning committee seemed, on the face of it, a clear renunciation of the kingdom's former leadership. However, its decision to accept lower prices as a consequence of maintaining its 4.5 million b/d share of OPEC's 16 million b/d production quota is not driven entirely by national self-interest.

Nor was it just a warning to fellow OPEC members that the kingdom will no longer protect them from the price consequences of exceeding their quotas.

The Saudi message was intended to be much more general, and to be directed at producers like the U.K. and Norway which have shunned membership of the cartel, but have benefited from the high prices and large investment on production that resulted. In this, Saudi Arabia managed to achieve a ragged common front in OPEC.

The delicate, and dangerous, task for OPEC now is to manage the moderate fall in prices which Saudi Arabia wants and which most of the other members concede is necessary without triggering a collapse which would be in nobody's interest.

Over the longer term, the Saudi

view has been that lower oil prices are needed to stimulate world demand for oil to assure a long-term market for OPEC producers.

This argument was generally accepted in Geneva although nothing was done at the meeting to alter the much ignored official price of the abused production quotas. Algeria and Iran both declined to join the committee set up to consider these matters.

Nevertheless, there has been a visibly aggressive aspect to Saudi Arabia's stance since June. It has made 10 separate discounted or "netback" deals with oil companies where prices are linked to the market price of petroleum products. The implied threat to non-OPEC producers has to be set against the traditional political caution of the kingdom.

On the other hand the mere decision to maintain production at its quota level of 4.5 million b/d could be associated with a serious collapse in prices if the more pessimistic forecasts of demand prove correct.

Saudi Arabia, with perhaps 150 years of supply under the ground, and very low marginal production costs, can easily make up for lower prices by pumping more oil, so the threat is a real one.

There is little chance, however, that other producers will be called into a cartel which is unable to fix prices. Britain, for example, has stated repeatedly that it will be no party to a price-fixing agreement.

On the other hand, a sharp slide in the oil price would have serious consequences for all producers, including Britain. Apart from the immediate loss of revenue, lower prices would tend to reduce investment and exploration and so reduce future supply. This, of course, would be to the long-term advantage of OPEC countries like Saudi Arabia with abundant reserves.

In the shorter term a cut in the price to below \$20 per barrel

could have widespread disruptive effects.

In Britain, Treasury studies suggest the overall effect on the economy might be broadly neutral, with the inflationary impact of a fall in sterling broadly cancelled by lower oil prices, and reduced oil wealth offset by the general stimulus to world economic activity.

That depends on the assumption of a rather moderate fall in the exchange rate. A collapse of sterling, on the other hand, could throw the whole of the government's economic strategy into turmoil.

In the U.S. a price below \$20 would certainly increase the clamour for an import surcharge to protect the oil industry interests. Moreover many banks exposed to the oil sector would be in "serious" though not disastrous "difficulties", according to Mr. Richard Adkerson, chief oil analyst for Arthur Andersen, the large U.S. accounting firm.

Although the banking system has broadly recovered from the effects of a series of bad loans to the oil industry in 1982-83, Mr. Adkerson says that the slower pace of exploration since then could leave some of the smaller companies with insufficient income to service their debts if the oil price were to fall substantially.

More generally, the world's banking system could face a renewed debt crisis as major debtors like Mexico found their oil revenues slashed.

Although clearly some countries like Japan and West Germany would benefit greatly from lower oil prices, even they would not wish the fall to be so steep as to plunge the world into a turmoil of adjustment.

OPEC can therefore look towards powerful influences in the developed world which might in some circumstances be helpful. Nobody foresees exactly how. But it has been suggested, for example, that some North Sea rigs were shut down for a longer maintenance period than was strictly necessary this summer.

Also, Mr. John Herrington, the U.S. energy secretary, has hinted that if prices fell, the U.S. might use the opportunity to increase its strategic stockpile.

Such actions by the industrial powers could only have a marginal influence on the world's pattern of supply and demand. But at strategic moments a common perception of advantage by the industrial powers might be important. But above all, Saudi Arabia and its supporters in OPEC now have no choice but to accommodate themselves to the quite startling statistics of oil's decline in the last 10 years.

Last year, free world production was some 20 per cent below its 1979 peak; but proven reserves had risen by seven per cent in the period and 7.5 million b/d of new capacity (more than a third of OPEC's current output) had been added between 1974 and 1984.

Energy demand in the 10 years to 1984 grew at only an average of 0.5 per cent a year compared with five per cent between 1960 and 1973.

Under these influences the price has been falling in real terms in the U.S. since 1981, though the strength of the dollar masked this for the rest of the world.

Now, with the weakening dollar, the real oil price has been falling in almost all markets in terms of local currencies. In the U.K. and West Germany, for example, the real price in local currencies fell by about 25 per cent in the first 11 months of this year.

The other side of this currency coin is that OPEC producers can buy less for each barrel of oil in the markets of Europe and Japan. But any hope in OPEC that these pressures will bring industrial powers into their circle may be a forlorn one. As one oil man said: "If they can't keep the cattle together in their own ranch, what hope have they of controlling the world?" — Financial Times news feature.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The morning is good for straightening out whatever requires you get matters in good condition after yesterday's celebration. Later, get together with a talented associate.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Contacting an individual who has a fascinating philosophy can be helpful in advancing your ideas. Avoid a jealous colleague.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Go to an expert who can cue you in on the best way to become more proficient at your career work. Improve health and appearance.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) State what you desire your mate to do and get the right response. Make plans for this evening early in the day.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Important you agree with kin on matters that will bring more harmony at home. Handle business affairs wisely.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get together with allies and come to a new agreement where kindred skills are concerned and get ahead faster.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get into financial affairs you put off because of the holiday and let the family assist you with them. Be active and happy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You may feel tired in the morning, but after lunch energy increases. Make up for lost time and accomplish much.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Avoid a gossiping friend in the morning. Then quietly get together with an expert to talk over financial affairs.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Listen to what others have to suggest in order to gain your cherished wishes. Take a trip with a good friend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Steer clear of that person who wants you to go out for a good time when you have important work to accomplish.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If you don't argue over a business matter in the morning, you can later achieve what you set out to do today.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Don't have that talk with a partner in the morning or an argument will result. Get advice of experts to clear up an enigma.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be an absolute fuss-budget and will always be dissatisfied with clothing, food, environment, etc. Teach not to criticize, and to be grateful. Your progeny will later become more cooperative and very ambitious. Stress education.

THE Daily Crossword

by Wilson McBeath

ACROSS

- 1 Epic tale
- 2 Alexander the great
- 3 — Alonzo
- 4 Stag
- 5 On the crest
- 6 Bach's instrument
- 7 Daily TV fare
- 8 Served
- 9 Greedy women
- 10 Dye chemical
- 11 Mountain
- 12 — the ramparts...
- 13 Reality
- 14 Chanzone de
- 15 Scheme
- 16 Printing
- 17 necessity
- 18 Carries
- 19 Dip
- 20 Ridiculed
- 21 Base
- 22 Garden areas
- 23 Kind of cords
- 24 Animal-like
- 25 Remedy
- 26 Forty-nine's adjective
- 27 Coated
- 28 Author Wiesel
- 29 — — —
- 30 Kael support
- 31 M. M. city
- 32 Migration
- 33 Thrill

DOWN

- 1 H. H. Munro's pen name
- 2 Star deity
- 3 Shiba
- 4 Marbled
- 5 Recumbent
- 6 Eye amorously
- 7 Tablet
- 8 Document
- 9 San —
- 10 Larger part
- 11 Wins in sports
- 12 Ruse, letters
- 13 Pointed arch
- 14 Provoked
- 15 Neck hair
- 16 Kline
- 17 Bulgarian city
- 18 Dale or Maurice
- 19 Covered
- 20 Girl in a children's tale
- 21 Football Hall of Fame
- 22 Grassy —
- 23 Coastal birds
- 24 Holidays
- 25 Plaster mending
- 26 — — —
- 27 Elykum
- 28 Relationship
- 29 Place
- 30 Residences
- 31 Eccentric
- 32 Sloppy style
- 33 Fr. author
- 34 Merges
- 35 Chel
- 36 Adolescent
- 37 Skie
- 38 Obscure
- 39 Needlefish

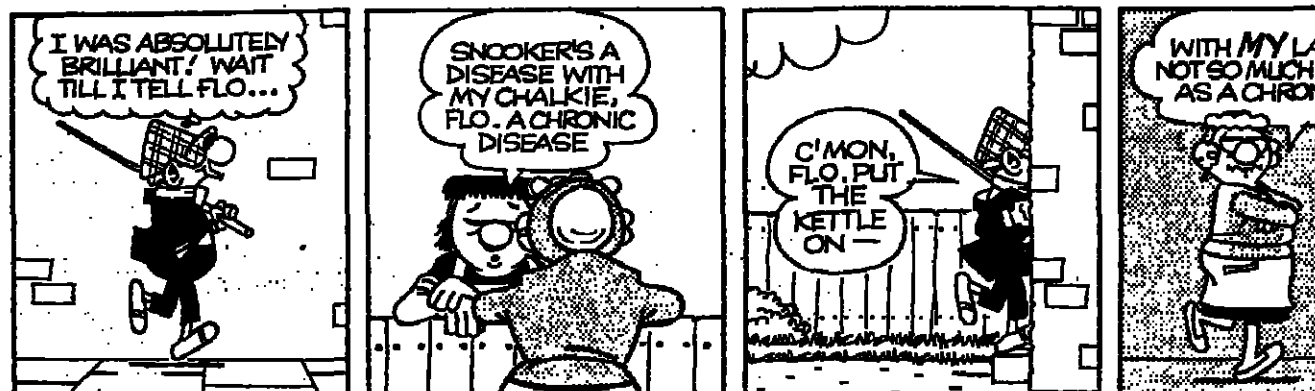
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BUAQS

WETIC

INMAYL

BIFCAR

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: SUCH

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: APART WHOSE IMPUGN TAMPER

Answer: Some people with the gift of gab never know when to do this—WRAP IT UP

Burkina Faso reports agreement on latest ceasefire with Mali

ABIDJAN (R) — Burkina Faso and Mali have accepted a ceasefire in their four-day-old border war, the official Burkinabe Radio said Sunday.

Ouagadougou Radio said an announcement by the official Libyan News Agency JANA that a ceasefire had come into force Sunday had been accepted by Burkinabe leader Thomas Sankara and Malian President Moussa Traore.

It is the third time a ceasefire has been announced in the war which began on Christmas Day over a 160-kilometre stretch of arid land on Burkina Faso's northern border.

The radio said the two sides were expected to respect the latest truce. The first two ceasefires — one announced by Libyan Foreign Minister Ali Abdul Salam Ali Turki and the other backed by the Organisation of African Unity — led only to an intensification of the fighting.

The radio said observers were expected soon in the disputed Agacher zone, reputed to be rich in minerals and natural gas.

JANA said Mr. Traore and Capt. Sankara had agreed to a ceasefire from 0100 GMT Sunday after contacts with Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi.

It said Libya would send observers to the disputed area Monday to "prepare for negotiations

and reconciliation between the two countries."

Malian state radio said Sunday that its troops were continuing to advance and were "deep inside Burkinabe territory." But Mali has not reacted directly to the latest ceasefire report.

Two days ago, Mr. Tureiki said in the Burkinabe capital, Ouagadougou, that a truce had been agreed but Mali later said it was not aware of any ceasefire accord.

A subsequent ceasefire announced in Dakar by Organisation of African Unity Chairman Abdou Diouf also failed to prevent an escalation of the conflict.

On Saturday, Mali said its planes had struck deep inside Burkina Faso, damaging four towns well away from the disputed border zone.

Ouagadougou Radio stopped issuing hostile war communiques Sunday and played folk music.

Meanwhile, Malian Foreign Minister Alioune Boudina Beye and his Burkinabe counterpart, Basile Guissou, together with other foreign ministers of ANAD (Accord de Non-Agression et de Defense) were due to meet in the Ivory Coast city of Abidjan.



Capt. Thomas Sankara

The meeting was due to take place here Saturday but was postponed when Mr. Guissou decided to fly home after finding Mr. Beye was not in Ivory Coast when he arrived.

Ouagadougou Radio reported Mr. Guissou as saying Saturday night that Burkina Faso was defending its territory.

The radio quoted him as saying that Malian press attacks on Burkina Faso proved that the war was "an alibi to topple the revolutionary regime in Burkina Faso."

Burkina Faso authorities appealed to security and military officials to report to government

headquarters while denying charges from neighbouring Mali that the country's leader had escaped a coup plot.

Ouagadougou Radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation early Sunday, issued an urgent announcement after reports of fresh fighting between the two West African states.

The statement, which immediately preceded and followed broadcasts renewing charges that while soldiers were fighting alongside Mali troops, said:

"All responsible officials of the security services and of the military training and civic education of the inhabitants of Ouagadougou, as well as the defence zones' counselling personnel, are urgently requested to report to the headquarters of the committees for the defence of the Revolution General National Secretariat."

Earlier, the radio ridiculed a broadcast by Mali's Bamako Radio that Burkina Faso's head of state, Capt. Thomas Sankara, had escaped a coup plotted by a corporal.

The ruling party in Bamako said that Malian ground forces had destroyed enemy positions in the south-western Burkinabe town of Koloko.

Burkina Faso had earlier reported beating off an attack on Koloko.

Gandhi attacks Indian society

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi shed his mild image this weekend to deliver a blistering and unprecedented attack on Indian society.

Vowing to change India from top to bottom, Mr. Gandhi spoke out against corruption, social injustice, sectarianism, religious intolerance and communalism which he said kept the country back.

He used the 100th anniversary celebrations in Bombay of his ruling Congress Party to criticise severely India's politicians, civil servants, businessmen, trade unionists, police, lawyers and teachers.

The harshness of his 90-minute speech to 100,000 Congress delegates took many veteran politicians by surprise.

The normally mild-mannered Gandhi, India's youngest prime minister, railed against grasping officials and mercenary businessmen.

"We have government servants who do not serve but oppress the poor and the helpless, police who do not uphold the law but shield the guilty, tax collectors who do not collect taxes but connive with those who cheat the state and whole regions whose only concern is their private welfare at the cost of society," Mr. Gandhi said.

He also promised to help the 300 million Indians who live below the poverty line.

India's 750 million people earn an average \$250 a year but there are huge gaps between rich and poor. Mr. Gandhi urged Congress members to return to the simple life style of Mahatma Gandhi.

Mr. Gandhi, dubbed "Mr. Clean" by the press, vowed to root out corruption and overhaul India's cumbersome and creaking bureaucratic machinery.

"We need structural changes at all levels. We shall have them," he said.

Referring to growing regionalism, Mr. Gandhi called on India to remain united and reject religious and communal strife.

After a sweeping general election victory a year ago, Congress (I) has lost state elections to regional parties in Punjab and Assam.

"We have to be on our guard. We have to overcome divisive forces," he said.

Briton claims he was spying for S. Africa

LONDON (AP) — A British-born hotelier is home after 10 years' spying in Africa, first for the white minority government in Rhodesia and then for South Africa, the Observer reported Sunday.

The Liberal weekly said that when the hotelier, Barry Wild, chose to get out he told a cover story to his superiors in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, that he wanted to take to his family in Britain.

They "apparently swallowed it, but they had a few jobs for him to do in the course of his trip," the story said.

It claimed that Wild was instructed to make contact as a sympathiser with the Anti-Apartheid Movement and the African National Congress in London so he could compile plans of their offices and photograph their callers.

He was also asked to buy a "recording briefcase" at a specified firm in London's East End to take to "important meetings," the newspaper said.

On the way back, he had to go via Zimbabwe, formerly called Rhodesia, to reconnoitre strategically sensitive areas close to Mozambique and pick up Zimbabwean passports for his family for use by agents of BOSS, the South African security network.

Wild claimed that among his duties, he bugged the rooms of guests such as Bishop Desmond Tutu, who stayed at his hotel; infiltrated agents into anti-apartheid groups in London to try to destabilise them; and spied on Zimbabwe.

The government denied charges by A.S. Balasingham, official spokesman of the Liberation Tigers guerrilla group, that his home was bombed by Sri Lankan government agents.

The Defence Ministry spokesman also said three civilians were killed by rebels and left tied to lamp posts two days ago in Batticaloa district.

In eastern Trincomalee district, security forces shot dead 10 guerrillas during searches for kidnapped civilians, he said.

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COLUMN

China catches master swindler

PEKING (R) — Bribery, corruption and other economic crimes have soared in China this year, the People's Daily said Sunday, citing the case of a swindler who earned 200 million yuan (\$62 million) through fake contracts. The newspaper said police in Fujian province had arrested Du Guozhen, 53, who managed in 10 months up to March this year to sign fake contracts worth more than 500 million yuan (\$156 million) of which he kept 200 million. His main trick was to promise to invest huge sums in firms which then appointed him to a top post, it said. He had no money but used the titles to make new deals. Du gave out 200,000 Yuan (\$62,500) and two motor cycles in bribes to officials to obtain bank loans, false registrations, a pier to smuggle goods and the use of a floor in a sanatorium from which patients had been removed, it said.

Walesa becomes father for 8th time

WARSAW (R) — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa became a father for the eighth time when his wife Danuta gave birth to a daughter. Walesa said the baby, born in hospital in the Baltic port of Gdansk where the couple live, weighed 3.9 kilograms and added: "She'll be anything like her father, she'll be pretty." The Walesas' last child, also a girl, was born in 1982 while he was still in internment following the suppression of his Solidarity free trade union under martial law. They now have four sons and four daughters. Walesa said the baby, who has not been named yet, would probably complete his family. "I'd like to stop there," he declared.

2 women jailed for theft by hypnosis

JAKARTA (R) — Two Ugandan women who hypnotised a jeweller then helped themselves to cash and gold have each been sentenced to three months in jail, Antara News Agency said Sunday. Patricia Mustafa, 58, and Hajjah Salim Amin Nur, 57, both tourists were convicted of stealing \$320 in cash and 87.5 grammes (three ounces) of gold from a shop in Padangsidempuran, North Sumatra. The shopowner told the court he was hypnotised by the women when they came to his shop last month. Mustafa and Nur were arrested after another shopowner reported a similar attempt a few days later. Antara did not give the women's home town.

Christmas gift injures father

SHAMONG, New Jersey (AP) — A man who gave his son a grenade as a Christmas gift was injured when he pulled the pin and the supposedly deactivated device exploded, authorities said. "I'm glad it was me and not one of the kids," said James Lang, 36, following the Christmas Day accident. Although the gunpowder had been drained through a hole drilled in the bottom of the grenade, its charging device still held powder and was active, state police Sgt. John Dennis said. The grenade was one of two purchased a few weeks ago by friends of Lang's who kept one and gave the second to him, Dennis said. Lang wrapped the grenade and military gifts, including camouflage outfit, web belt and canteen, for his 10-year-old son, Erik. He said he was sitting with friends at his home when he took the grenade from among several gifts under the Christmas tree and pulled the pin. The grenade detonated, and flames shot from the bottom towards Lang's stomach, leaving a circle of burns and a small cut.

Woman duped India's poorest out of \$1m

NEW DELHI (R) — Police have arrested a woman who duped thousands of slum residents out of nearly one million dollars, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency has reported. PTI said the woman masterminded a scheme which persuaded more than 20,000 slum dwellers in the central Indian city of Ahmedabad to part with 350 rupees (\$25) or more each. Using 1,000 agents, the woman promised to give the residents a life long return of 100 rupees (\$10) a month in cash and clothes worth 50 rupees (\$5) a month in exchange for the investment. PTI said the woman, identified only as the wife of a civil servant, made more than 10 million rupees (\$1 million) from the scheme.

Rivals kill Bangladesh rebel leader

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — A former leader of tribal insurgents in the Chittagong hill tracts was shot dead last week by members of a rival group, a newspaper reported Sunday.

The independent Bengali-language the Ittefaq said an armed group from the Larma faction of the rebels killed Maj. Atul Chandra Talukder, popularly known as Rubel, on Thursday, because he had surrendered to the Bangladesh army.

Rebel, in his late 20s, surrendered to the army on April 29 this year.

Another unidentified person was wounded when the gunmen raided Rubel's home at Rangunia in the hill tracts, 350 kilometres south east of here, the newspaper said.

The raid came amid reports of possible peace talks this week or next between the government and the Larma rebels led by Bodipriya Larma to end the 14-year-old insurgency in the Chittagong hill tracts bordering the Indian states of Tripura and Mizoram.

The rebels have been fighting a bush war since 1972 for greater economic and cultural autonomy

of the 13,000-square-kilometre region rich in resources like timber and gas.

More than 2,500 rebels, most from a militant Marxist faction led by Priti Kumar Chakma, surrendered to the government by April this year under a two-year amnesty declared by military ruler President Gen. Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

Priti Kumar is reportedly still in hiding in India. About 3,000 insurgents are believed to be still engaged in fighting against government troops.

25 patients die because of doctors' strike in Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — At least 25 hospital patients have died for lack of treatment because of a nationwide doctors' strike, officials said Sunday.

They said most victims at Rangpur Medical College Hospital in northern Bangladesh were suffering from a kidney and liver problem.

Nurses and ward orleries in many other hospitals were treating the sick.

The country's 40,000 doctors, engineers and agricultural experts have been on strike since last Sunday to demand higher status and more pay.

A hospital official in Rangpur said the town's private doctors had refused to attend to the dying patients for fear of reprisal by the striking doctors.

"The hospital now looks like a death chamber. You can only hear cries and screams of the patients in pain and agony," the official, Azizuddin Ahn, told Reuters by telephone.

In Dhaka, striking doctors opened free clinics outside the hospitals after relatives of some patients reported that nurses and ward orleries were prescribing medicines.

The indefinite strike involving the doctors was followed by a 72-hour stoppage by about 230,000 workers of Bangladesh's 69 tube mills seeking a pay rise backdated to June 1984.

The government urged both groups to call off the walkout, saying their grievances were under review. It said the demands would be implemented as far as possible although they would cost the national exchequer an extra \$10 million.

Analysts said the two strikes posed a new challenge to President Hossain Mohammad Ershad as he prepared to permit free political activity from Jan. 1.

A presidential aide denied they might hamper plans to return the country to democracy next year.

"These strikes are simply dress rehearsals before the political activity. They do not bother us... You have got to put up with strike if you want to be in politics," he said.

Meanwhile, an epidemic of diarrhoea has killed at least 25 people in southern Bangladesh's Barisal district over the past six days, the daily Ittefaq newspaper reported Saturday.

It quoted local health officials as saying that the disease, mainly caused by rotten food and polluted drinking water, had affected about 600 people in seven villages.

Marcos to keep U.S. bases after 1991

MANILA (Agencies) — President Ferdinand Marcos said Sunday U.S. military bases in the Philippines were necessary to maintain the balance of power in the region and he would favour retaining them after the present treaty expired.

Mr. Marcos, who is standing for re-election in February, told palace reporters the country's geographical location meant it could not escape involvement in any large-scale Asian war, "bases or no bases."

"Because we can't escape being involved in any such war our best recourse is to help prevent it by maintaining the balance of power between the super states," he said.

Clark Air Force Base and Subic Bay Naval Base, the largest overseas U.S. bases, were essential to counter the Soviet military bases in Vietnam, he said.

The current bases treaty expires in 1991 and Mr. Marcos said he favoured continuing it beyond that date.

"We shall insist," he added, "that any future treaty on U.S. of Clark Field, Subic Naval Base and allied facilities should spell out the respective obligation and rules of the signatories in the clearest terms."

Meanwhile, the deputy chief of the armed forces said Sunday he was ready to resign if negligence charges were brought against him in connection with the deaths of 20 demonstrators.

"My conscience is clear," said the official, Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos, after three of 17 members of a fact-finding committee urged in a minority report that he be charged with negligence.

The committee, which released its majority report signed by 14 members Saturday, recommended the prosecution of Escalante Mayor Brulio Lumayno and 45 soldiers and militiamen on charges of murder, but said it found no evidence against Gen. Ramos.

Mr. Lumayno was named because he was the official in charge of the policemen and militiamen who were involved in the shooting.

The killings occurred when security forces opened fire on a crowd of 5,000 people, mostly farmers, who were demonstrating near the Escalante plaza against the rule of President Ferdinand Marcos.

The military courts will then revert to civilian tribunals.

Opposition politicians say fear of the military courts, which can impose sentences of flogging, has kept many people from joining protests against martial law. They say the courts are arbitrary and unnecessarily tough.

A Peshawar military court sentenced 86 people in absentia Saturday, giving most of them 14 years hard labour and stiff fines as well as confiscating all their property.

They included Murtaza Bhutto, son of the former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who was overthrown by Gen. Zia. He now lives in Damascus and heads the Al Zulfikar guerrilla group he founded in 1979.

More than a dozen other mil-

Afghans break up Pakistani seminar

LAHORE, Pakistan (R) — Afghan refugees shouting "Islamic revolution" and "holy war" broke up a public seminar on Afghanistan, witnesses said.

Shots were heard from outside the hall and police armed with batons and guns had to restore calm, they said. Nobody was injured.

Several Afghans jumped onto the platform on Saturday night and seized the microphone for about 20 minutes after a leftist Pakistani opposition leader said Islamabad should talk directly with Kabul's Soviet-backed government to end the six-year war.

More panjemonium flared when Ghaus Bux Bizenjo continued by saying Soviet troops entered Afghanistan in December 1979 at the invitation of the government. He and other leftist speakers were hustled out of the hall